



ART BY SOUMEI HOSHINO : STORY BY GUINROSE

VOLUME 4

4
Alice IN THE
COUNTRY OF
Hearts

WONDERFUL WONDER WORLD



Alice in the Country of Hearts

ハートの国のアリス

~ Wonderful Wonder World ~

4

QuinRose X Soumei Hoshino

Alice in the Country of Hearts Volume 4

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"MAYBE
ROLES
CAN BE RE-
PLACED..."

"...BUT
PEOPLE
CAN'T BE."

"EVERY
PERSONALITY
IS ITS OWN,
ACE."

...I THOUGHT
WHAT I TOLD
ACE WAS JUST
COMMON
SENSE.

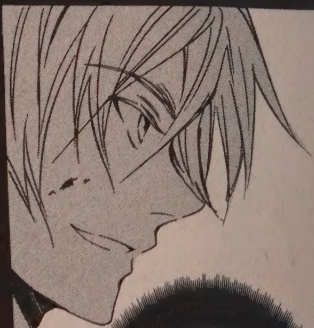


BUT I
KEEP
FOR-
GETTING.

THIS
PLACE ISN'T
ANYTHING
LIKE MY
WORLD.



"YOUR SWEET
SENTIMENTS
JUST MIGHT GET
YOU KILLED IN
THIS WORLD, MY
DEAR ALICE."



ハートの国のアリス

~ Wonderful Wonder World ~



C O N T E N T S

♥ 18

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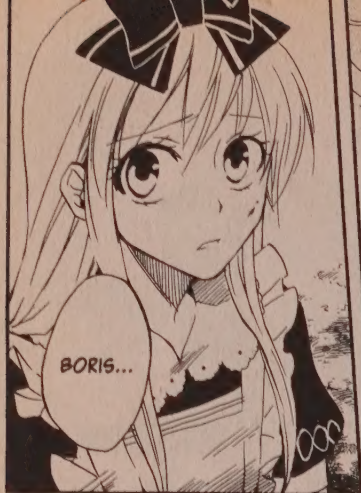
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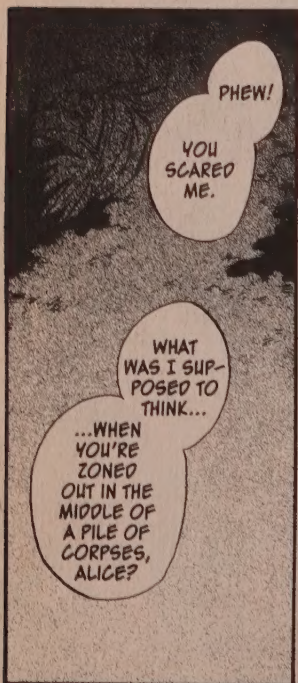


BORIS...



ALICE,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

WHAT
HAPPENED?

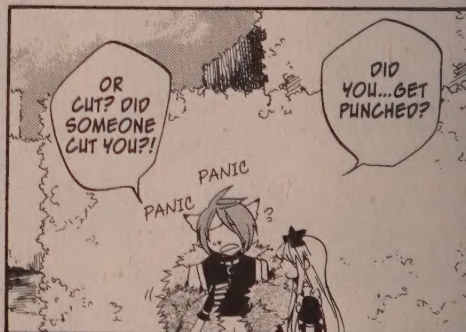


PHEW!

YOU
SCARED
ME.

WHAT
WAS I SUP-
POSED TO
THINK...

...WHEN
YOU'RE
ZONED
OUT IN THE
MIDDLE OF
A PILE OF
CORPSES,
ALICE?



OR
CUT? DID
SOMEONE
CUT YOU?!

DID
YOU...GET
PUNCHED?

PANIC
PANIC

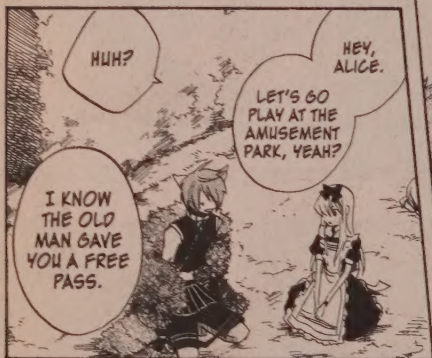


I'M
NOT HURT,
BORIS.

...I'M
FINE.



♡18 Let's go comfortably!





N-NO!
I MEAN...
MAYBE.



YES'M.

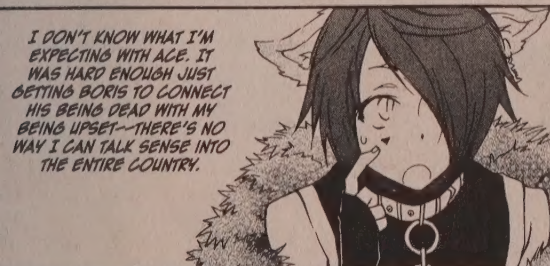
Bad
kitty.



Crap.

FLINCH

WHY
ARE
YOU
EVEN
HERE,
BORIS?
ARE YOU
SNEAKING
INTO THE
CASTLE
AGAIN?



I WANNA
SEE YOU.
AND IF I
GET REALLY
HURT AGAIN,
I CAN'T,
SO...

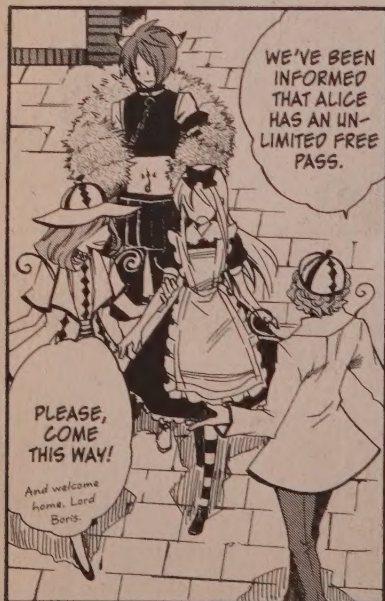
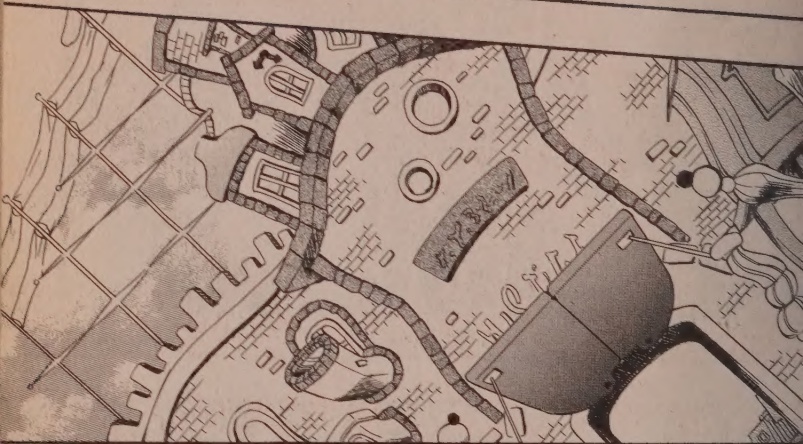
I
MEAN,
DUH.



GOD.
WHAT AM
I EVEN
DOING?

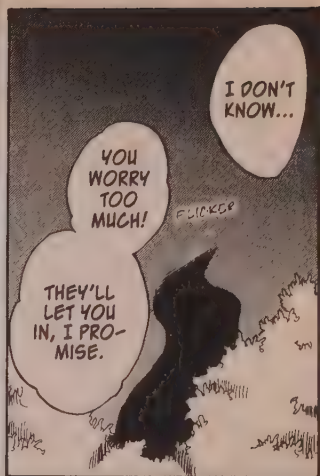
SIGH.

BESIDES,
I'M NOT
THE KIND
OF GIRL TO
GO AROUND
PREACHING.





Gasp!

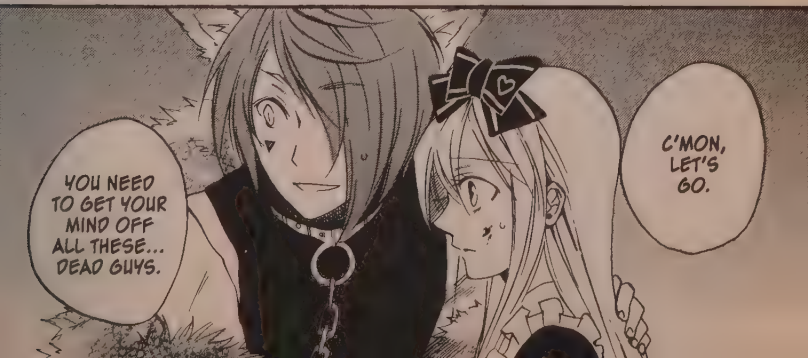


I DON'T
KNOW...

YOU
WORRY
TOO
MUCH!

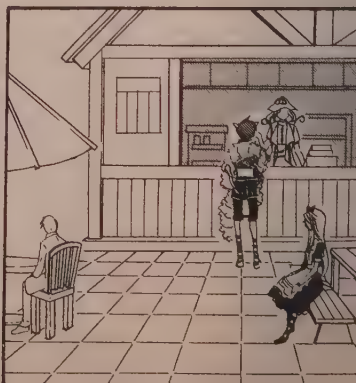
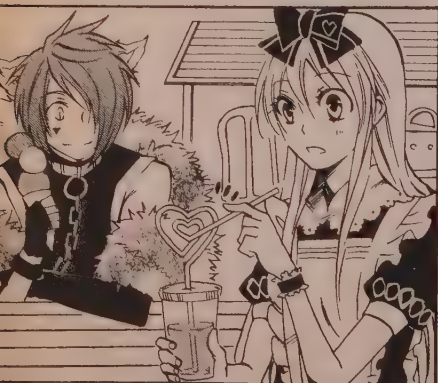
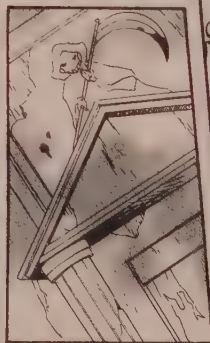
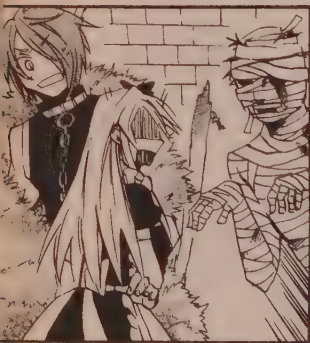
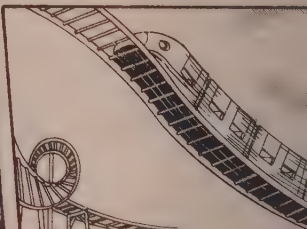
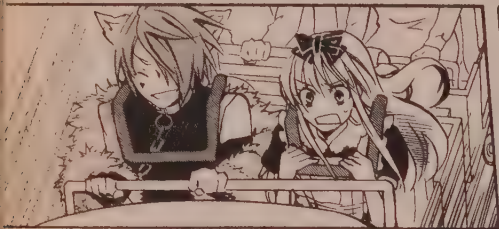
FUCKER

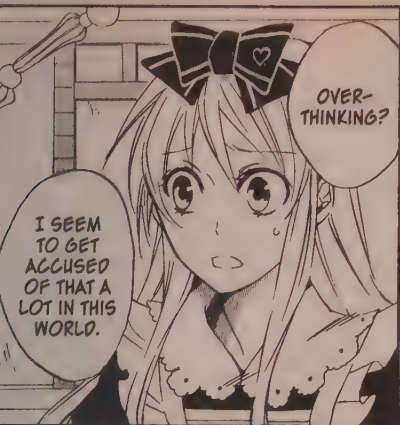
THEY'LL
LET YOU
IN, I PRO-
MISE.



YOU NEED
TO GET YOUR
MIND OFF
ALL THESE...
DEAD GUYS.

C'MON,
LET'S
GO.





OVER-
THINKING?

I SEEM
TO GET
ACCUSED
OF THAT A
LOT IN THIS
WORLD.



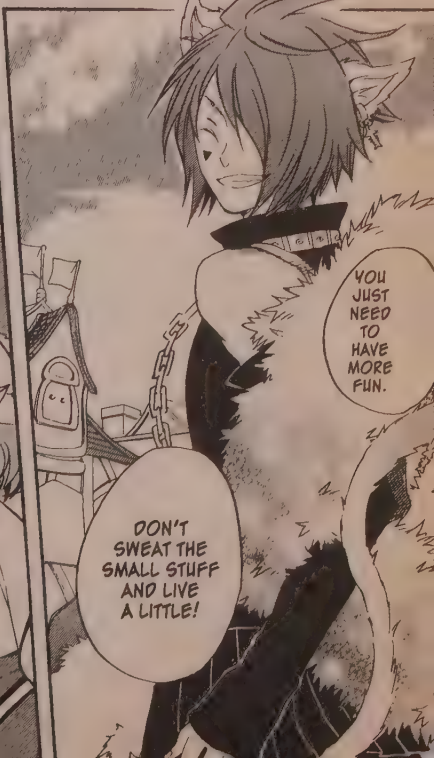
SEE?
TOLD
YA.

YOU'VE
GOTTA STOP
OVERTHINKING
EVERYTHING.



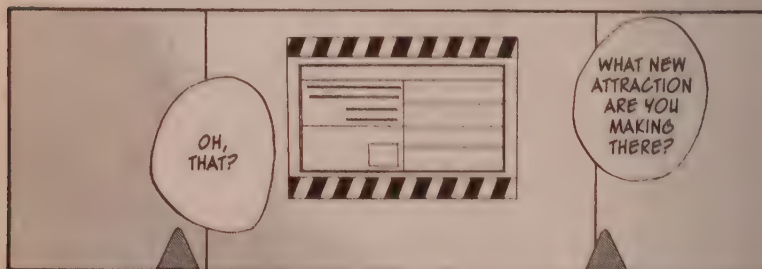
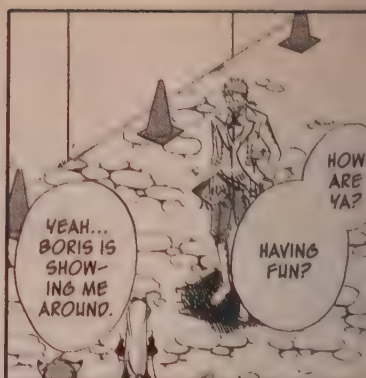
WE
COULDN'T
HANG OUT
AT ALL
THE LAST
TIME YOU
CAME.

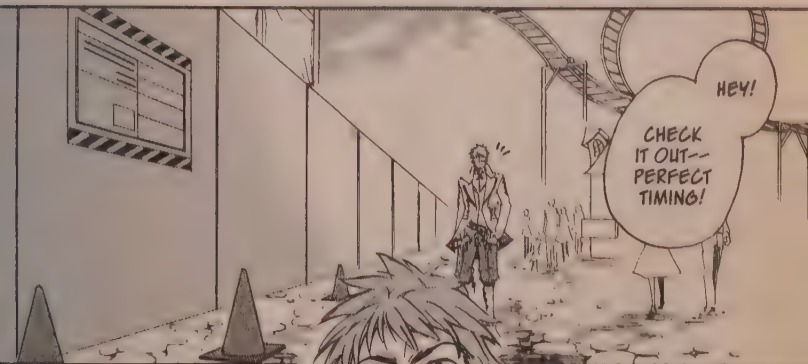
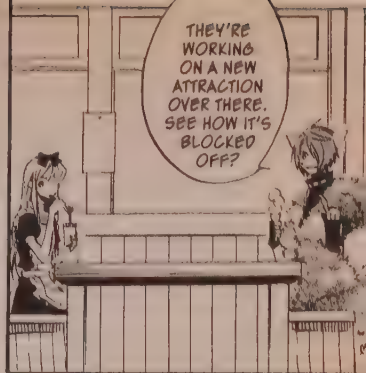
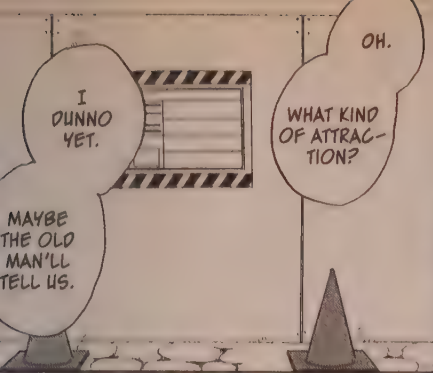
LET'S
MAKE UP
FOR IT BY
PARTYING
HARD!



YOU
JUST
NEED
TO
HAVE
MORE
FUN.

DON'T
SWEAT THE
SMALL STUFF
AND LIVE
A LITTLE!





THIS NEW
RIDE ISN'T
SOME UNHOLY
UNION OF THE
TEACUP RIDES
AND A ROLLER
COASTER,
IS IT?

OLD MAN...
DON'T TELL
ME...

THAT
SOUNDS
HORRIBLE.

OH,
HOW THE
PATRONS'LL
SCREAM!

YOUR
HEART'LL
BE IN YOUR
MOUTH
AND YOUR
LUNCH IN
YOUR LAP!

How'd
you
guess?

THE
CUP'LL SPIN
'TILL YOU
CAN'T SEE
STRAIGHT,
ZOOMING
ALONG THE
TRACKS!

ALICE...

SORRY IT'S
NOT READY
YET, WITH YOU
SO EXCITED
AND ALL!

WELL,
SAFETY
FIRST.

TOO BAD
WE WON'T
GET TO RIDE IT.
(I GUESS
I'LL KEEP MY
LUNCH IN MY
STOMACH.)

WOW...W
A TOTAL
GREAT ID
FOR A PA
RIDE.

Heh H



EXCITED

I CALL
IT...

THIS
NEW CRE-
ATION OF
MINE HAS
GOT REAL
GUTS.

IT'S GONNA
BLOW OUR
OTHER RIDES
RIGHT OUTTA
THE WATER!

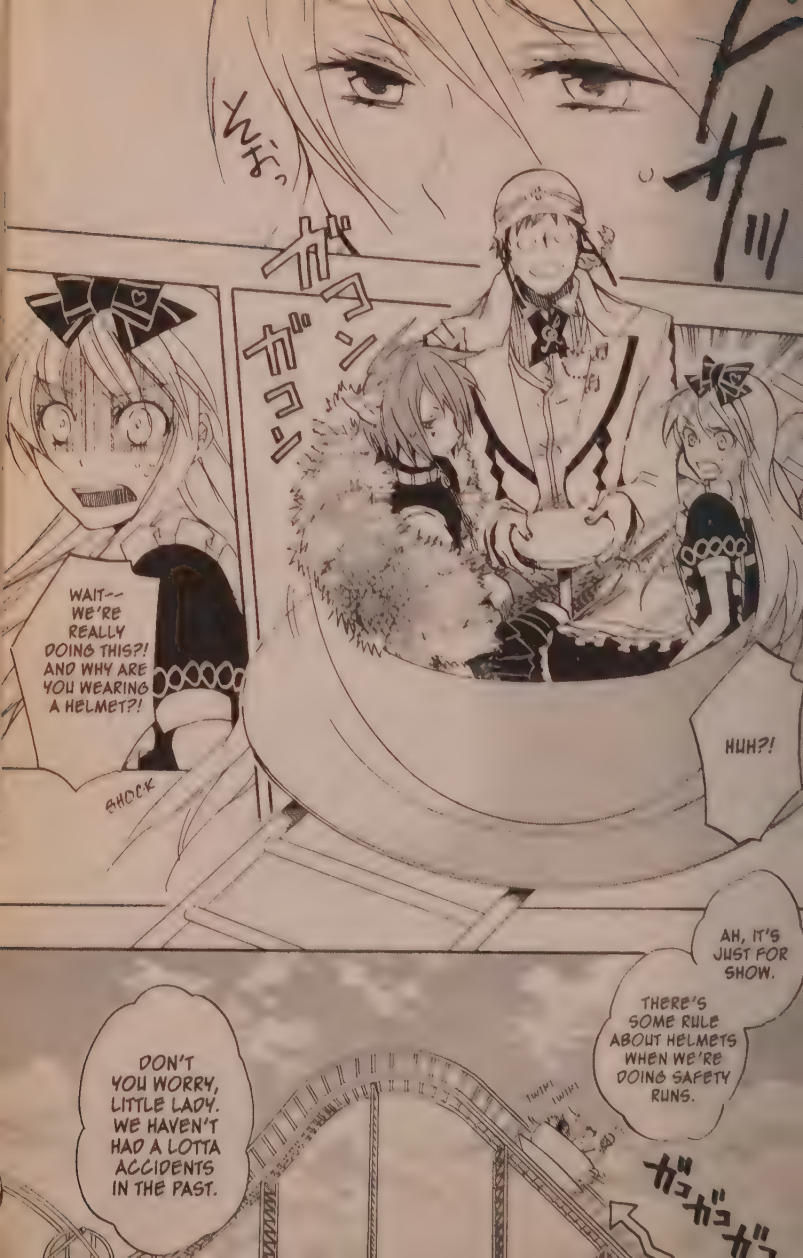
I WANTED
TO TRY
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
THIS TIME
AROUND.



...THE JET
COASTER
COFFEE
CUP!



JET
COASTER
COFFEE
CUP?!



this

ハッ

ガコンガコン

WAIT--
WE'RE
REALLY
DOING THIS?!
AND WHY ARE
YOU WEARING
A HELMET?!

SHOCK

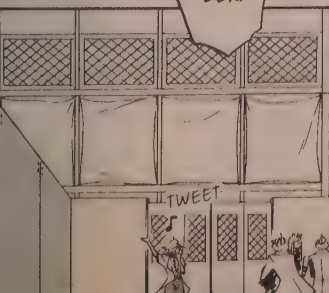
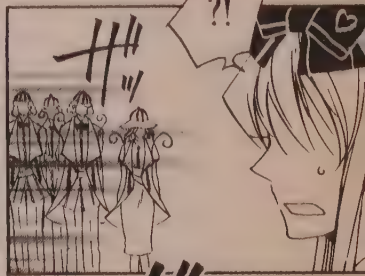
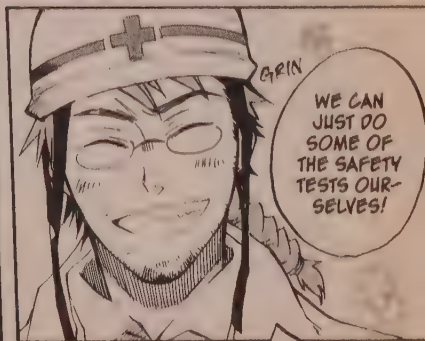
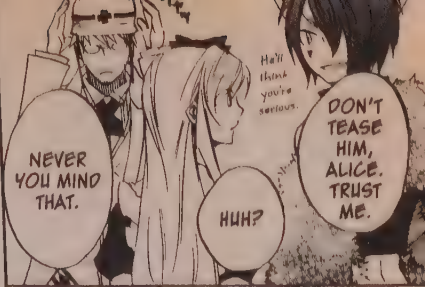
HUH?!

AH, IT'S
JUST FOR
SHOW.

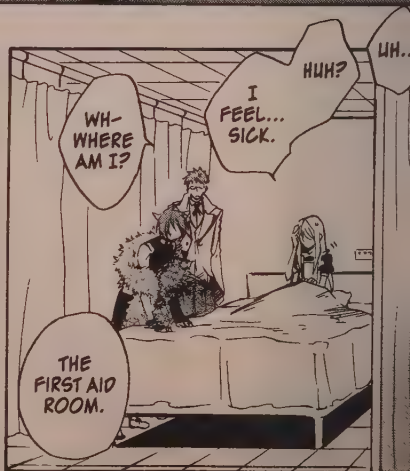
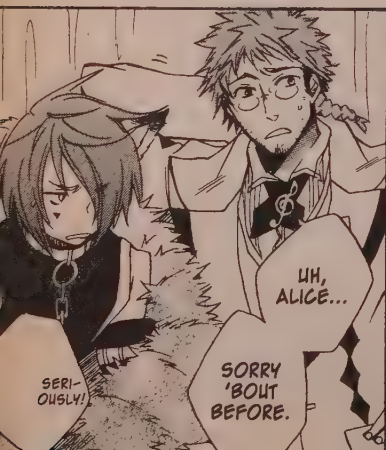
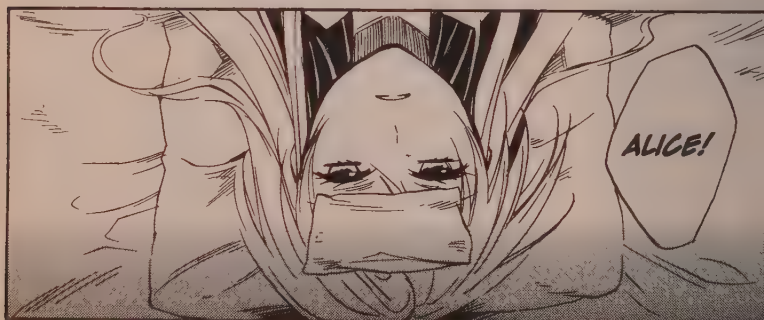
DON'T
YOU WORRY,
LITTLE LADY.
WE HAVEN'T
HAD A LOTTA
ACCIDENTS
IN THE PAST.

THERE'S
SOME RULE
ABOUT HELMETS
WHEN WE'RE
DOING SAFETY
RUNS.

ガッガッガッ



ドドドドド



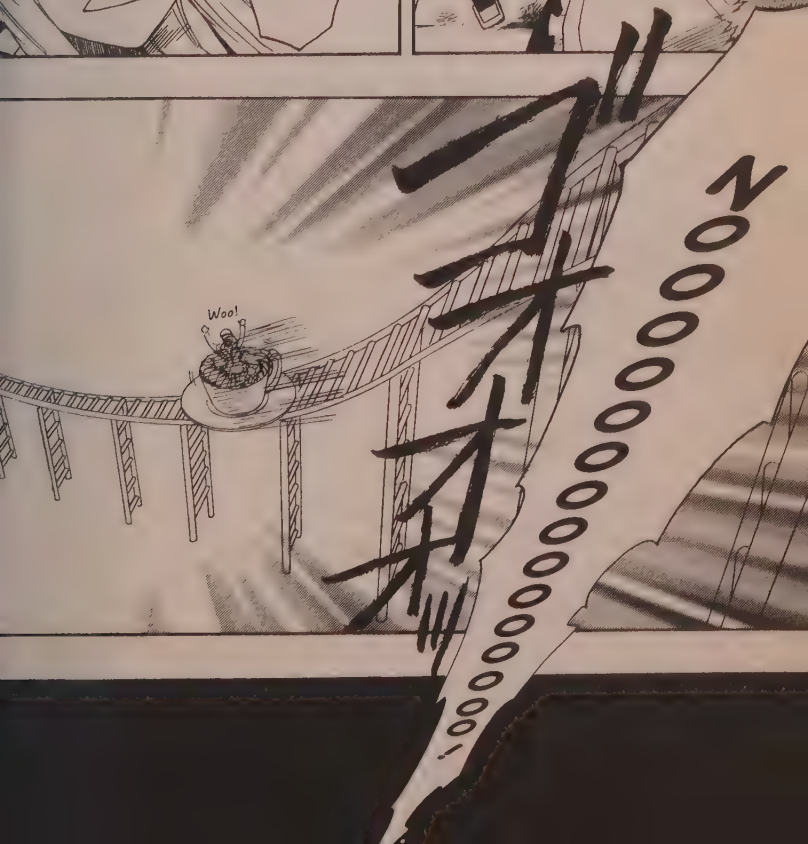


LET
ME OFF!
PLEASE!

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN "A
LOT"?!

I don't
wanna be a
safel...!est!!

NN...!



Woo!



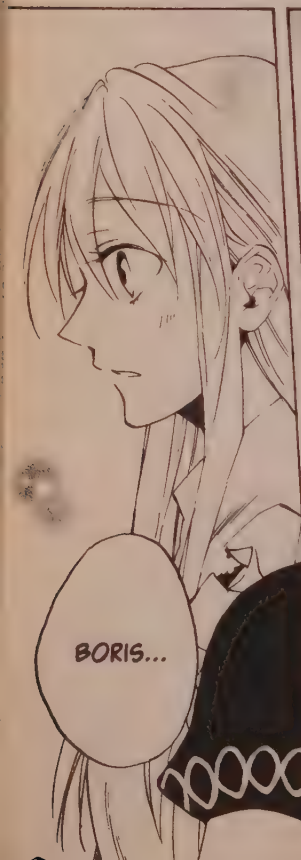
HEH HEH...
WE WERE
WATCHING
FROM THE
FIRST AID
STATION.
☆

First Aid Workers

WALKING
AROUND THE
PARK LIKE
LOVERS IN THE
SUMMER-
TIME!

THEY
DO MAKE
A CUTE
COUPLE,
DON'T THEY?

ラッ



BORIS...

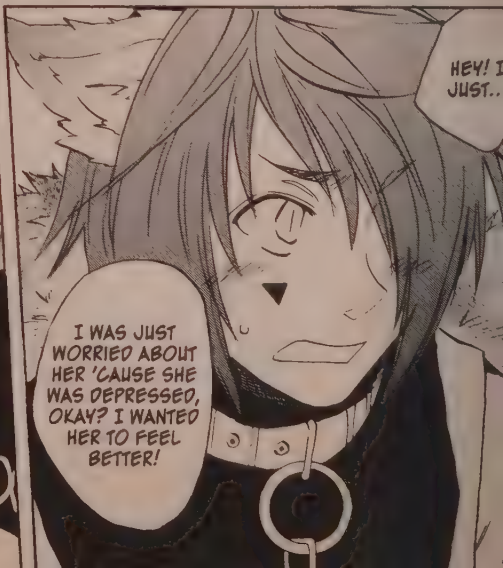


I SHOULD'A
KNOWN THE FIRST
TIME SHE CAME
HERE WOULD BE
BECAUSE YOU
BROUGHT HER!

NUDGE
NUDGE

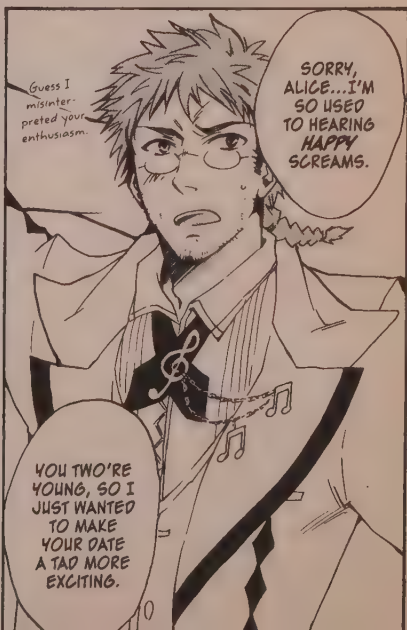
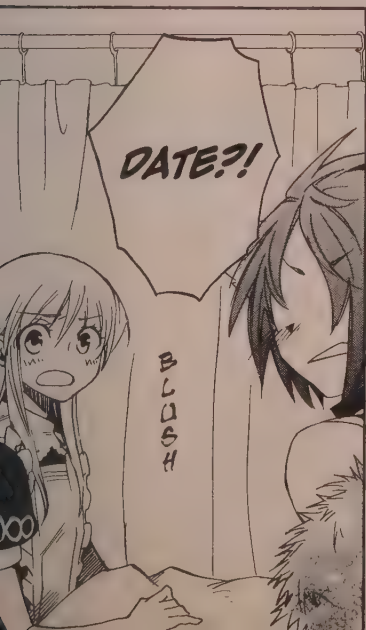
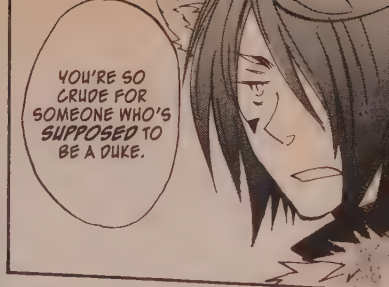
THAT
BORIS
FOR

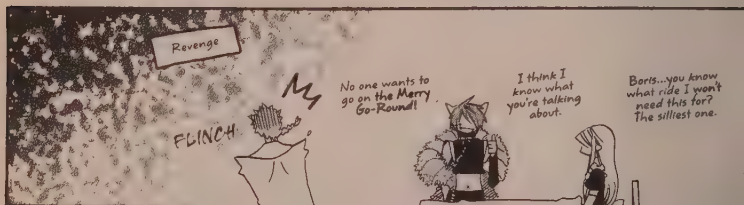
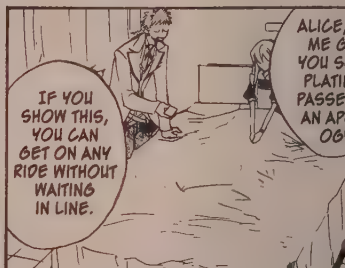
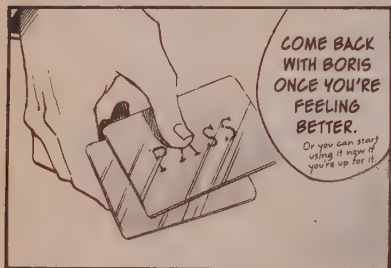
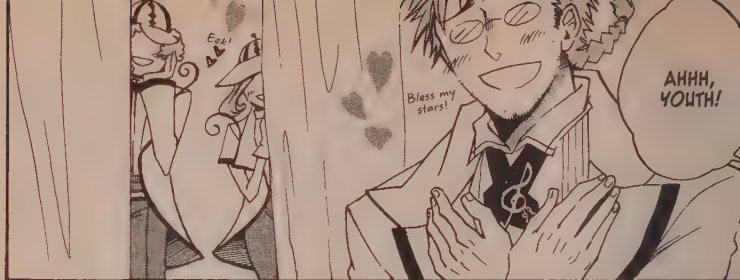
IS OUR
LITTLE
TOM OUT
TO STUO?



HEY! I
JUST..

I WAS JUST
WORRIED ABOUT
HER 'CAUSE SHE
WAS DEPRESSED,
OKAY? I WANTED
HER TO FEEL
BETTER!





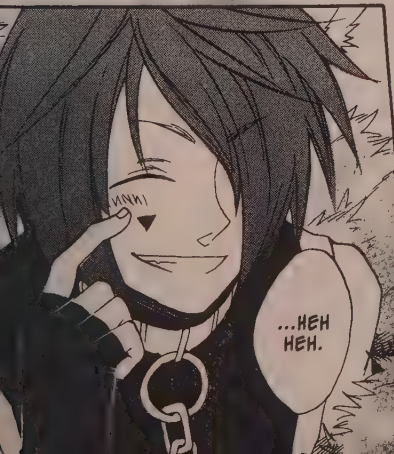
IT'S LIKE THAT
TIME HE TOLD ME
THAT SILLY RIDDLE.



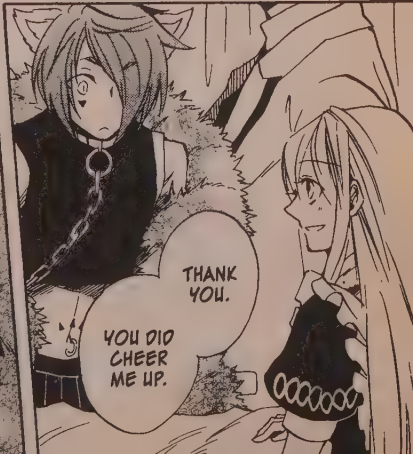
THAT'S
REALLY...
SWEET.

BORIS IS SO GENTLE.

AND I DO FEEL A LOT MORE
RELAXED WHEN I'M WITH HIM.

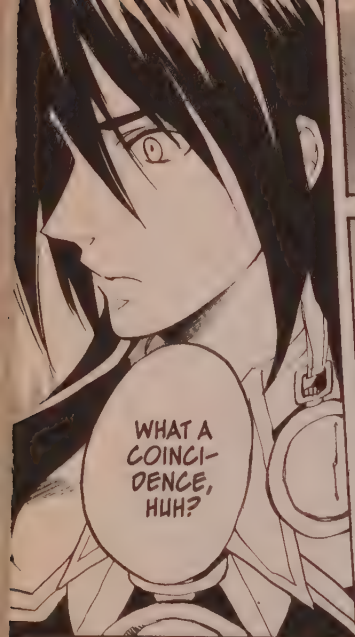


...HEH
HEH.

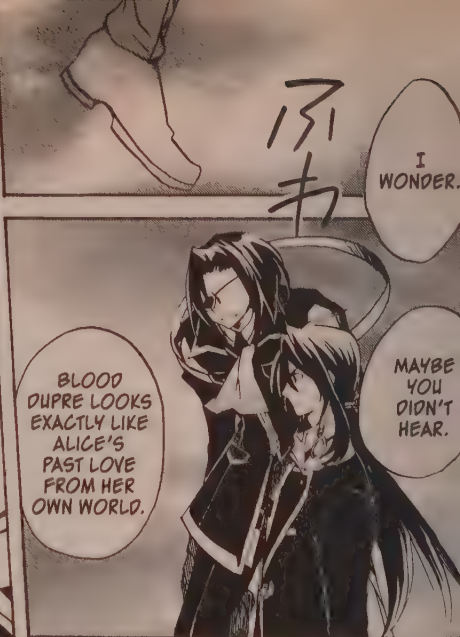


THANK
YOU.

YOU DID
CHEER
ME UP.



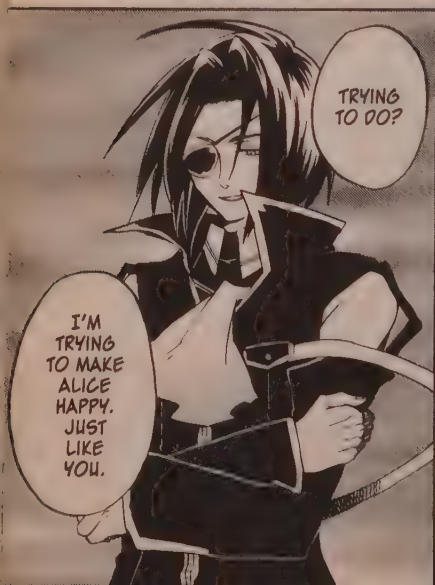
WHAT A
COINCIDENCE,
HUH?



I
WONDER.

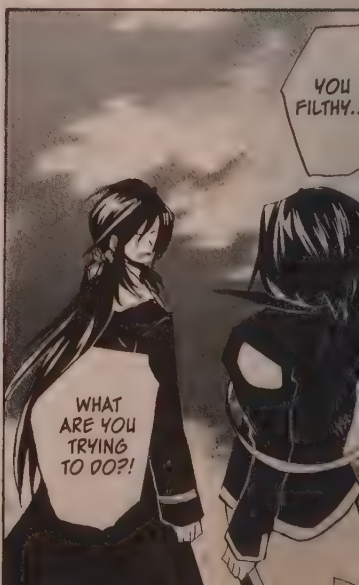
BLOOD
DUPRE LOOKS
EXACTLY LIKE
ALICE'S
PAST LOVE
FROM HER
OWN WORLD.

MAYBE
YOU
DIDN'T
HEAR.



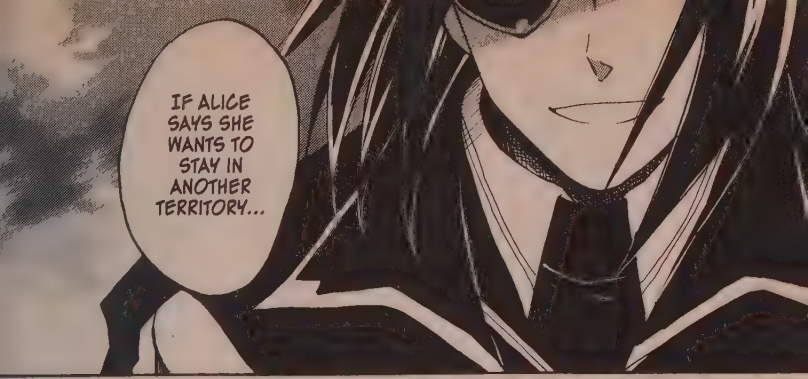
TRYING
TO DO?

I'M
TRYING
TO MAKE
ALICE
HAPPY.
JUST
LIKE
YOU.

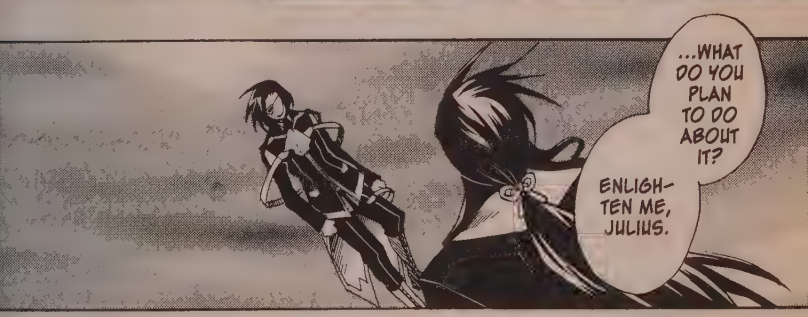


YOU
FILTHY..

WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO DO?!

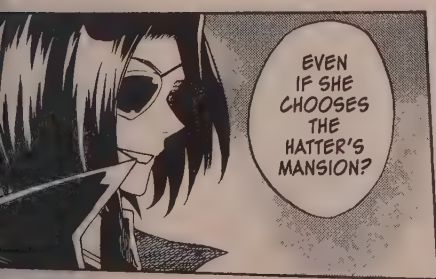


IF ALICE
SAYS SHE
WANTS TO
STAY IN
ANOTHER
TERRITORY...

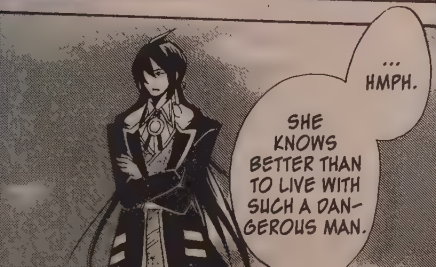


...WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN
TO DO
ABOUT
IT?

ENLIGHTEN
ME,
JULIUS.

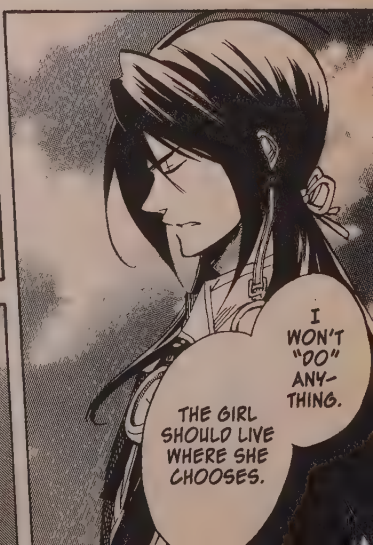


EVEN
IF SHE
CHOOSES
THE
HATTER'S
MANSION?



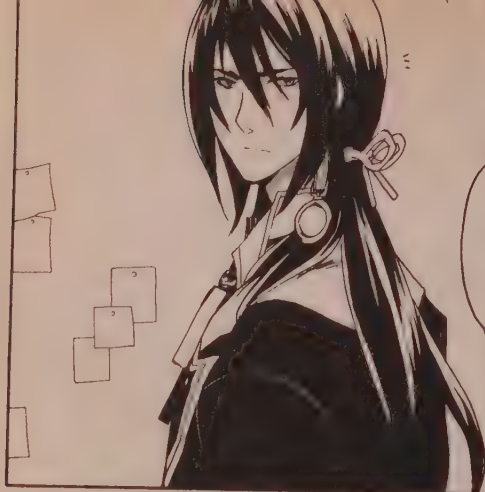
...
HMPH.

SHE
KNOWS
BETTER THAN
TO LIVE WITH
SUCH A DAN-
GEROUS MAN.



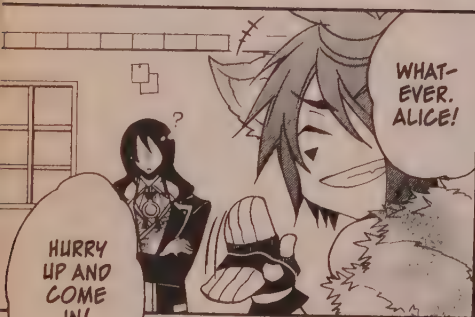
I
WON'T
"DO"
ANY-
THING.

THE GIRL
SHOULD LIVE
WHERE SHE
CHOOSES.



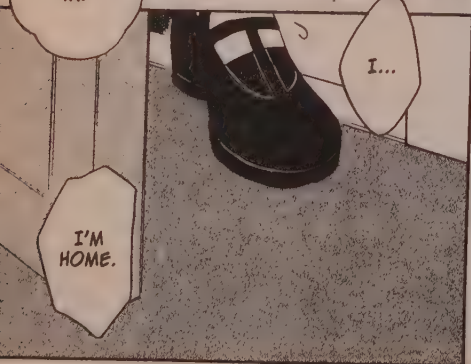
HEY,
MISTER
CLOCK-
MAKER!

I
BROUGHT
ALICE
HOME
FOR YA.



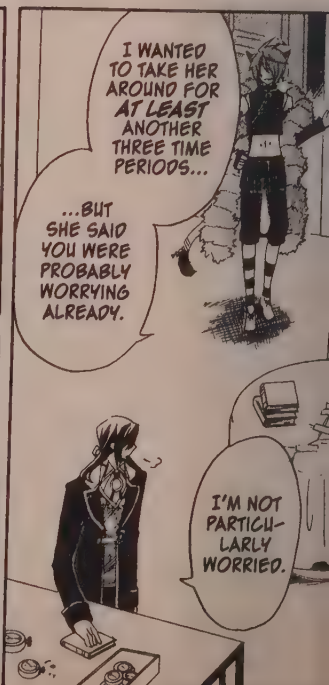
WHAT-
EVER.
ALICE!

HURRY
UP AND
COME
IN!



I...

I'M
HOME.



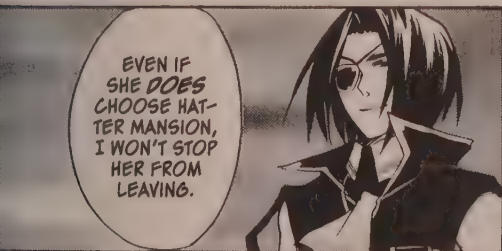
I WANTED
TO TAKE HER
AROUND FOR
AT LEAST
ANOTHER
THREE TIME
PERIODS...

...BUT
SHE SAID
YOU WERE
PROBABLY
WORRYING
ALREADY.

I'M NOT
PARTICU-
LARLY
WORRIED.



SO YOU'RE
AN ACCOM-
PLICE OF
PETER WHITE.



EVEN IF
SHE **DOES**
CHOOSE HAT-
TER MANSION,
I WON'T STOP
HER FROM
LEAVING.

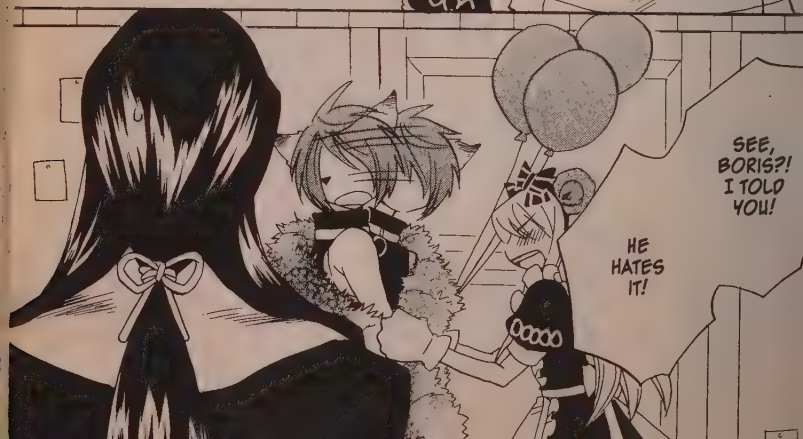


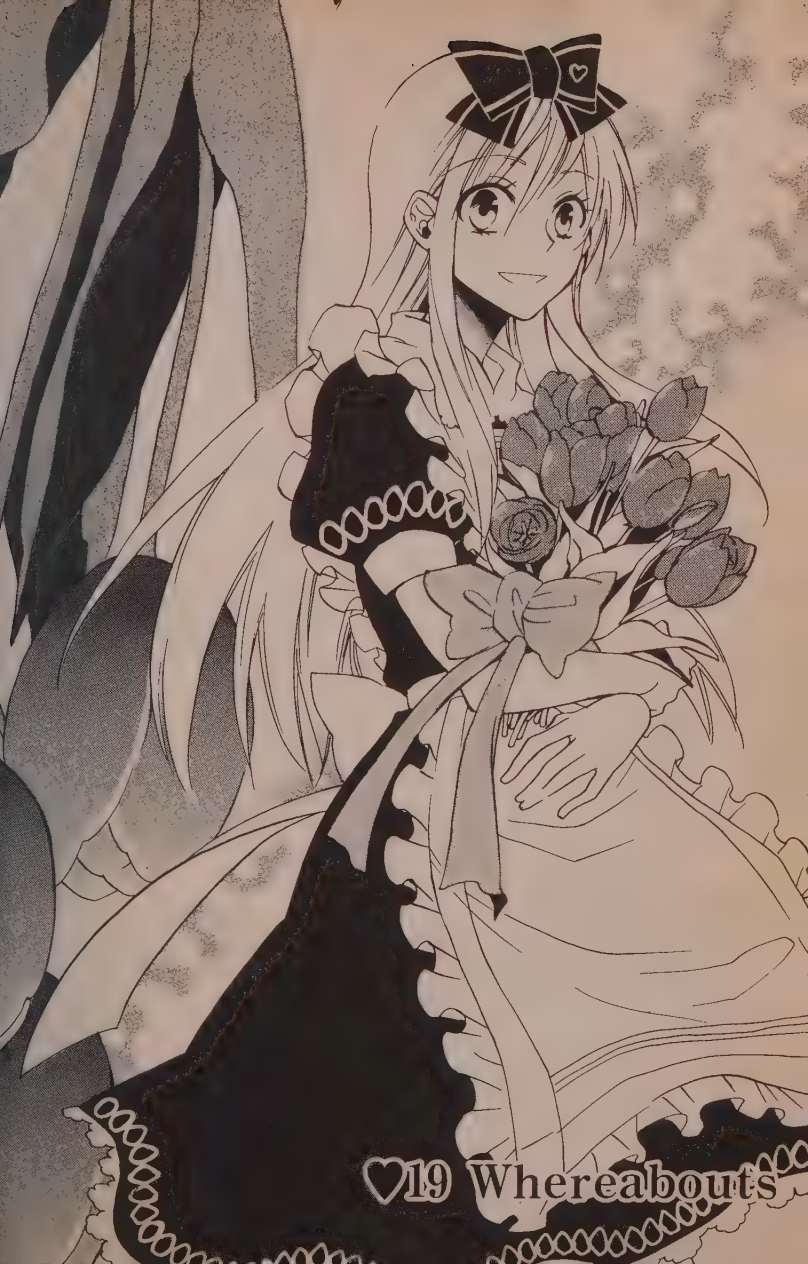
IT
WOULDN'T
BE RIGHT.

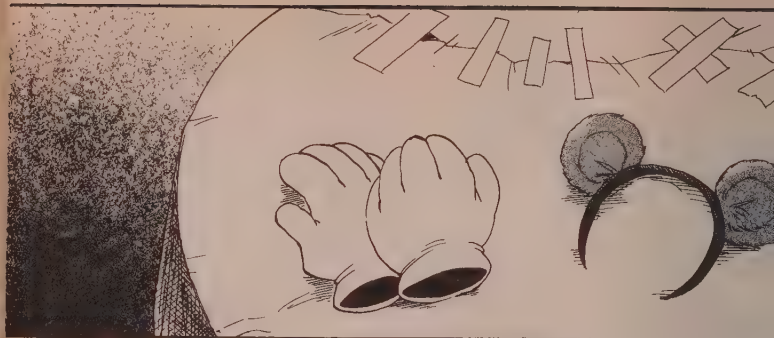


AM I
NOW?

LISTEN
TO ME.



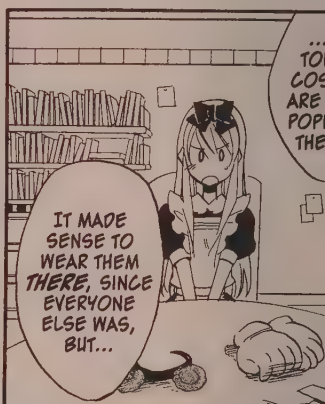




Jeez.

I GOT CARRIED AWAY.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORN THEM OUTSIDE THE PARK--I PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE AN IDIOT.



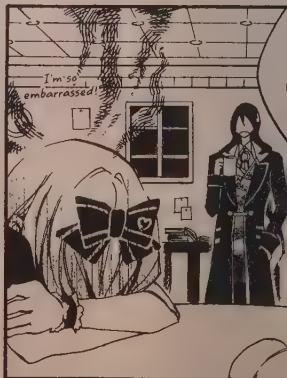
...
TO
COS
ARE
POP
THE

IT MADE SENSE TO WEAR THEM THERE, SINCE EVERYONE ELSE WAS, BUT...

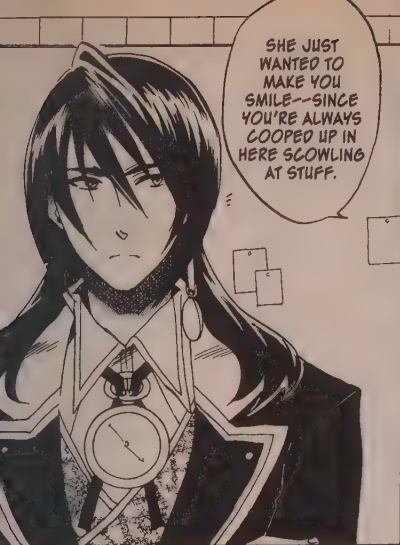


I JUST...

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT MAKE YOU LAUGH BECAUSE IT'S UNLIKE ME.



I'm so embarrassed!



SHE JUST
WANTED TO
MAKE YOU
SMILE--SINCE
YOU'RE ALWAYS
COOPED UP IN
HERE SCOWLING
AT STUFF.



WAY TO
HAVE A
STICK UP
YOUR BUTT,
CLOCK-
MAKER.

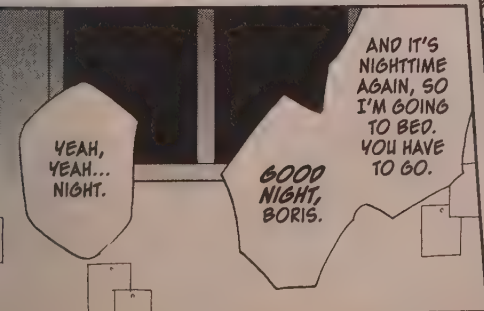
YOU DON'T
THINK ALICE
IS CUTE IN
THIS GET-UP?
NOT EVEN A
LITTLE?



SHOVE

JUST
CAN
IT, ALL
RIGHT?

WHY? IT'S
NOT LIKE
IT EVEN
WORKED--



YEAH,
YEAH...
NIGHT.

GOOD
NIGHT,
BORIS.

AND IT'S
NIGHTTIME
AGAIN, SO
I'M GOING
TO BED.
YOU HAVE
TO GO.



WHAT?!

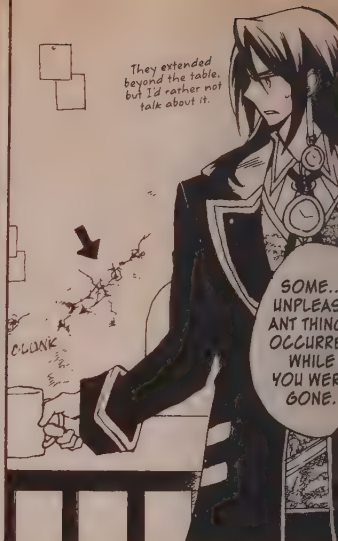
BLUSH

D-
DON'T
TELL
HIM
THAT!



"UNPLEAS-
ANT"?
AND IS THAT
YOUR NEW
BACK-
LOG OF
CLOCKS?!

HUH?



They extended
beyond the table,
but I'd rather not
talk about it.

SOME...
UNPLEAS-
ANT THING
OCCURRED
WHILE
YOU WERE
GONE.

CLONK



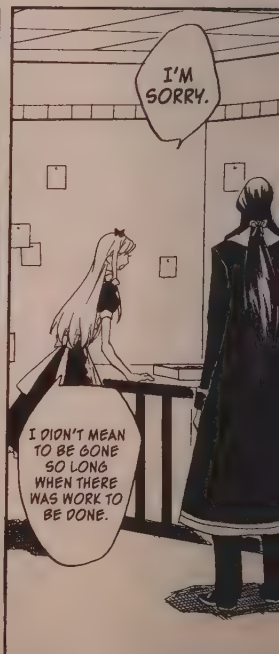
YOUR HELP IS
APPRECIATED,
BUT MY WORK
ISN'T YOUR
RESPON-
SIBILITY.

IT'S
NOT YOUR
CONCERN.



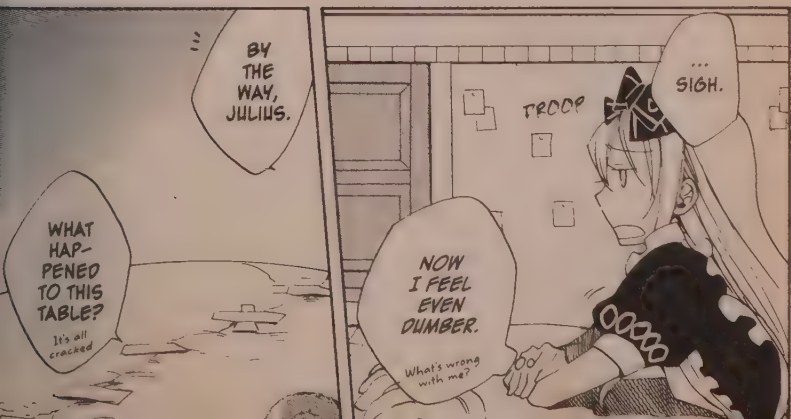
I TOLD YOU
I'M NOT COM-
FORTABLE
UNLESS I'M
EARNING MY
KEEP HERE.

BUT I
WANT IT
TO BE!

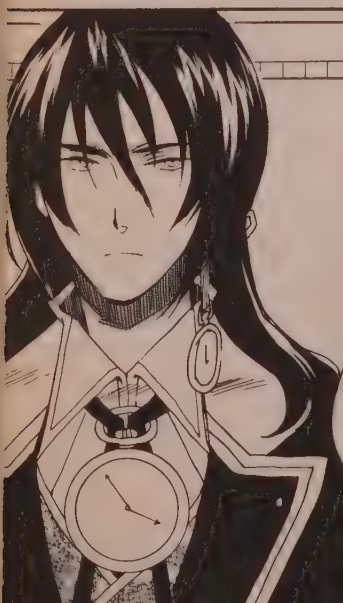
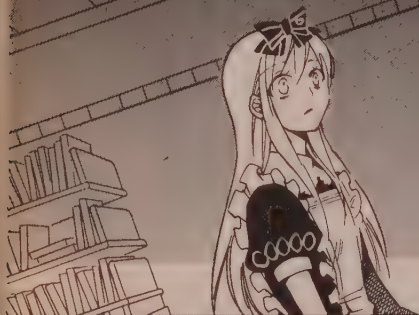


I'M
SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN
TO BE GONE
SO LONG
WHEN THERE
WAS WORK TO
BE DONE.

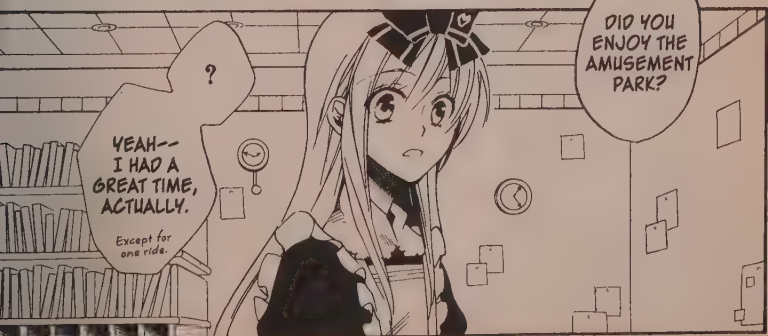
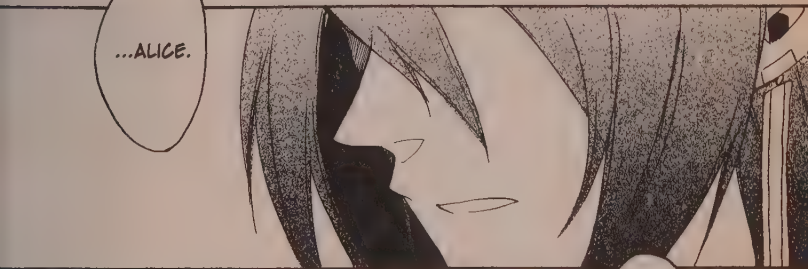
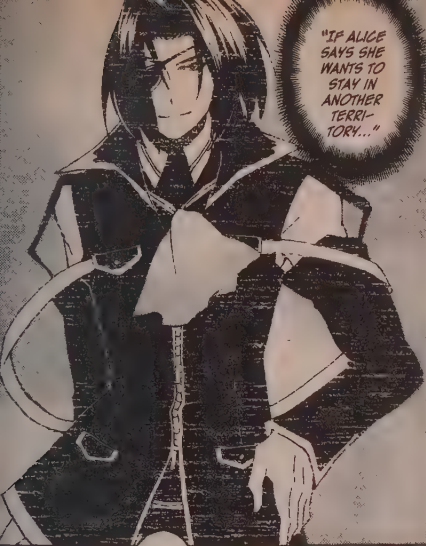


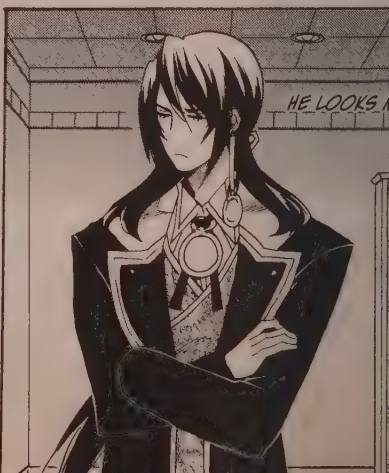
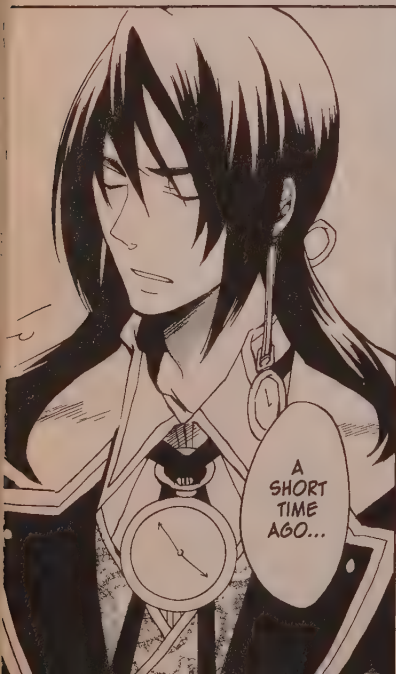
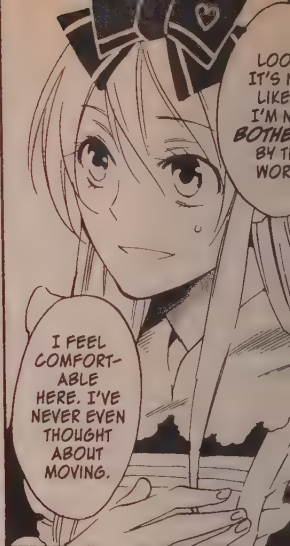
HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED
LEAVING THE
CLOCK TOWER
AND MOVING
TO THE PARK?

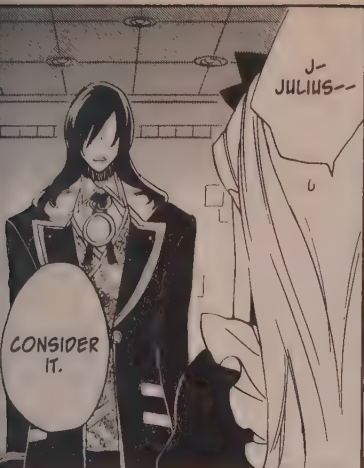


HHH...?



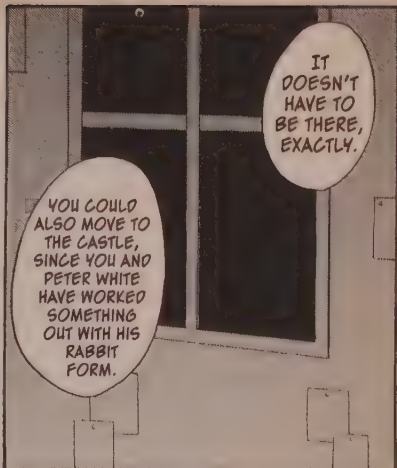






CONSIDER
IT.

J-
JULIUS--



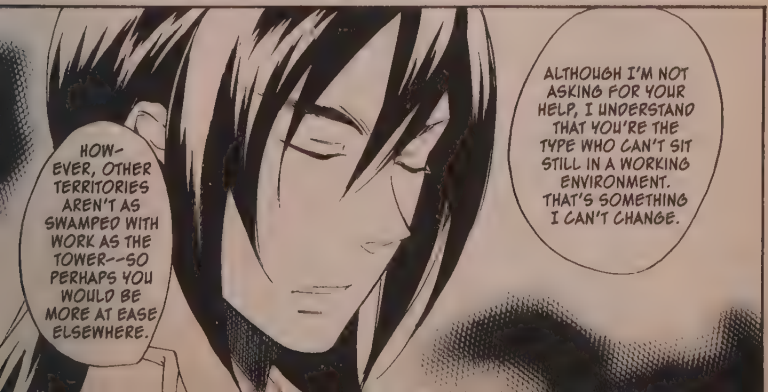
YOU COULD
ALSO MOVE TO
THE CASTLE,
SINCE YOU AND
PETER WHITE
HAVE WORKED
SOMETHING
OUT WITH HIS
RABBIT
FORM.

IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
BE THERE,
EXACTLY.



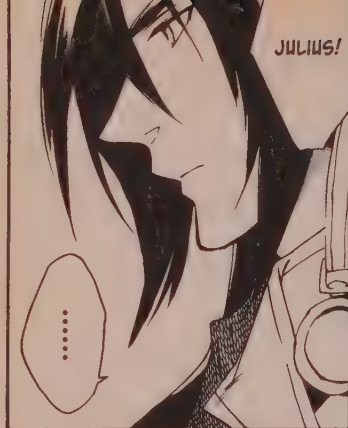
.....
!

MAYBE YOU
WOULDN'T
FEEL OBLIGED
TO "EARN
YOUR KEEP"
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.



HOW-
EVER, OTHER
TERRITORIES
AREN'T AS
SWAMPED WITH
WORK AS THE
TOWER--SO
PERHAPS YOU
WOULD BE
MORE AT EASE
ELSEWHERE.

ALTHOUGH I'M NOT
ASKING FOR YOUR
HELP, I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU'RE THE
TYPE WHO CAN'T SIT
STILL IN A WORKING
ENVIRONMENT.
THAT'S SOMETHING
I CAN'T CHANGE.



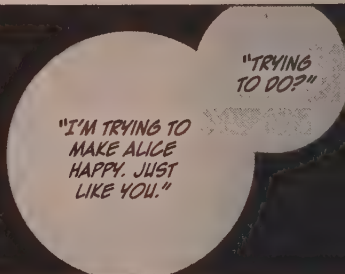
JULIUS!



WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?!



...DO WHAT
YOU WANT,
ALICE.



"I'M TRYING TO
MAKE ALICE
HAPPY. JUST
LIKE YOU."

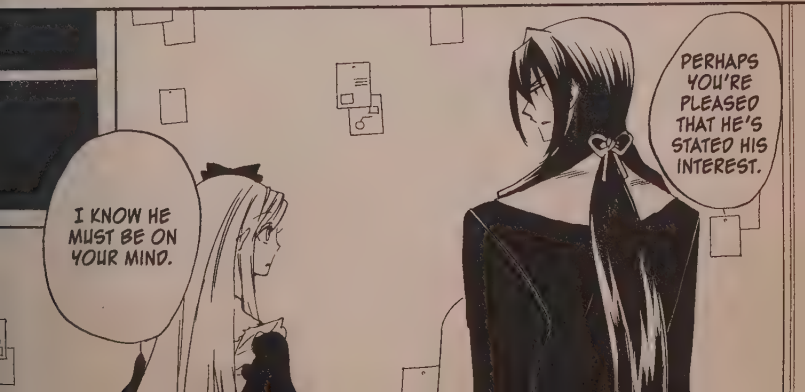
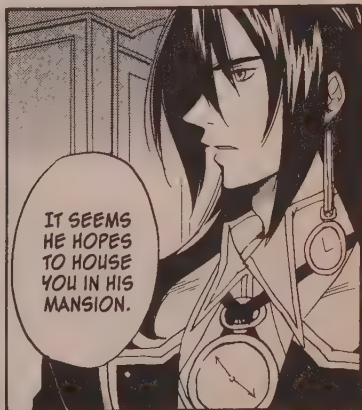
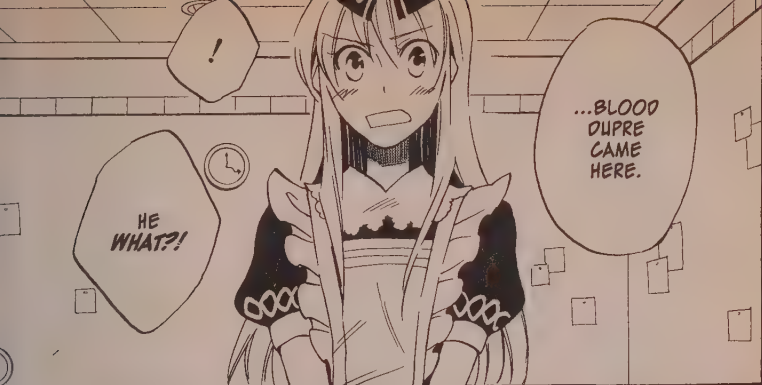


I WON'T
INTERFERE
WITH YOUR
PLANS FROM
NOW ON.

DECIDE
WHERE YOU
WANT TO BE,
AND MAKE
YOUR HOME
THERE.

AND STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT MY
WORK.

IF YOU'D
RATHER STAY
IN ANOTHER
TERRITORY,
YOU'RE FREE
TO LEAVE AT
ANY TIME.



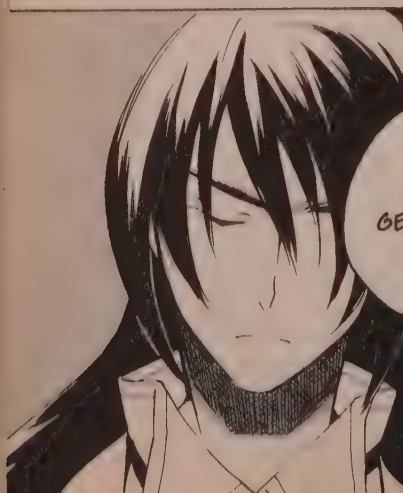
MAYBE JULIUS ISN'T
COMFORTABLE LIVING
WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
I SHOULD'VE CAUGHT
THE HINT EARLIER.



FINE.

F...

JUST BECAUSE
DIDN'T REJECT
OUTRIGHT...GO
I'M SO STUPID



I
GET IT.



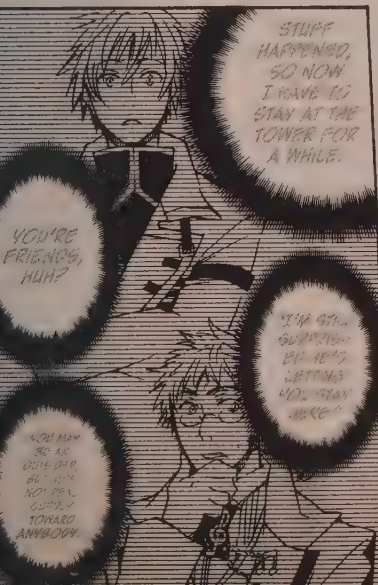


D.



I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.

I DON'T. BUT...

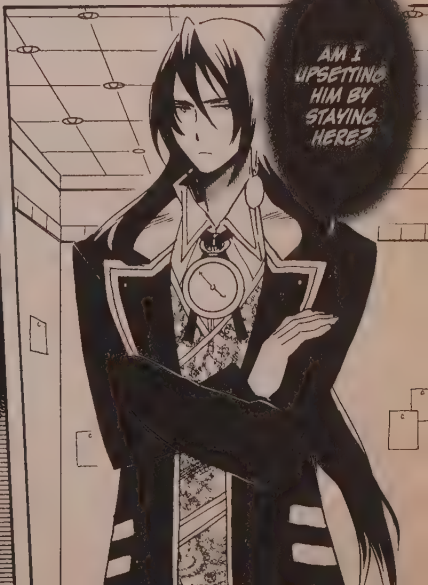


STUFF
HAPPENED,
SO NOW
I HAVE TO
STAY AT THE
TOWER FOR
A WHILE.

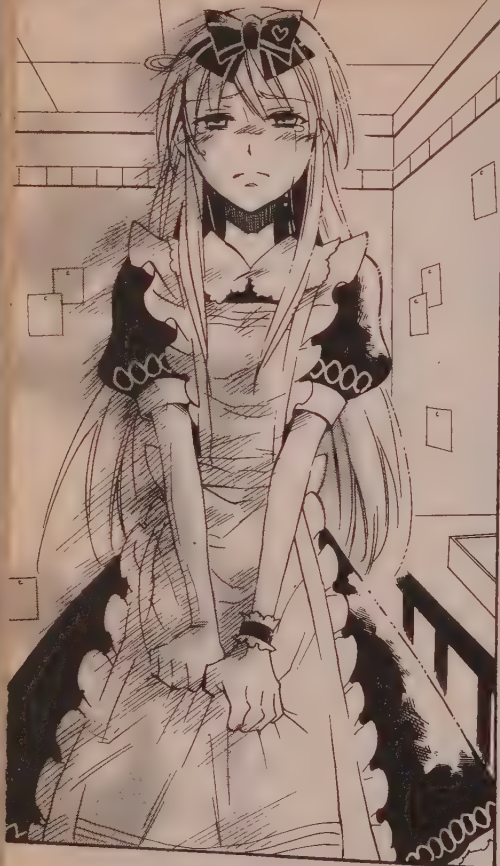
YOU'RE
FRIENDS,
HUH?

I'M STILL
SURPRISED
HE LETS
ME STAY
HERE.

YOU KNOW
HE ASKED
ME TO
STAY HERE.
I DON'T
WANT TO
STAY
ANYMORE.

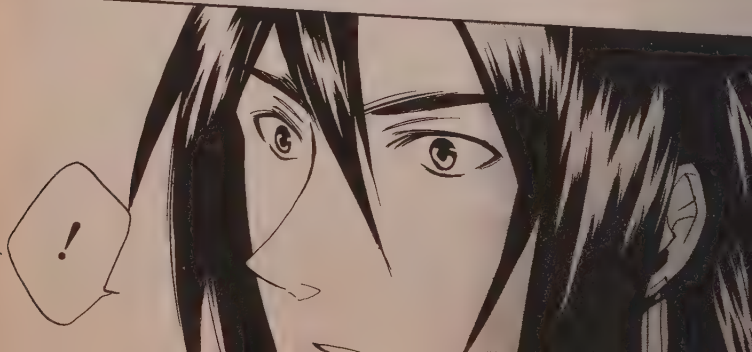


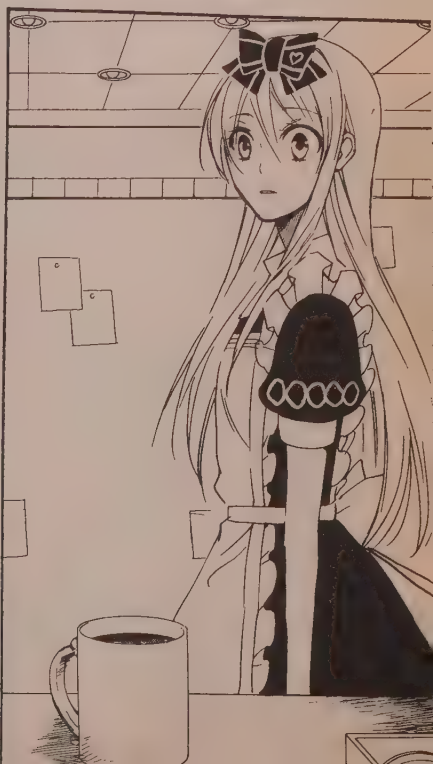
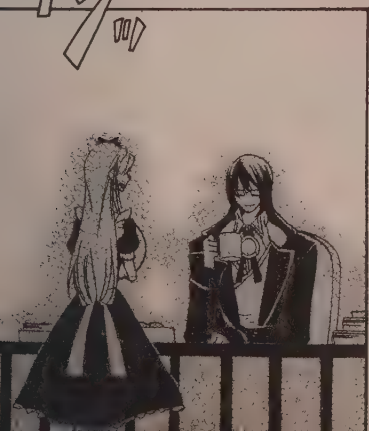
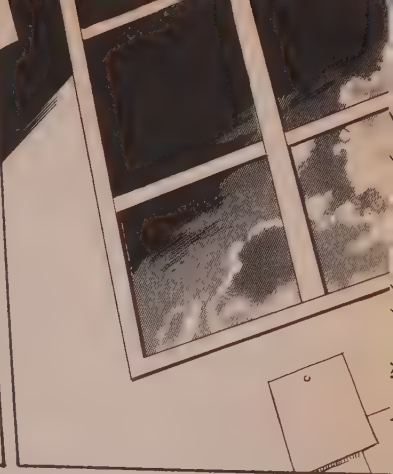
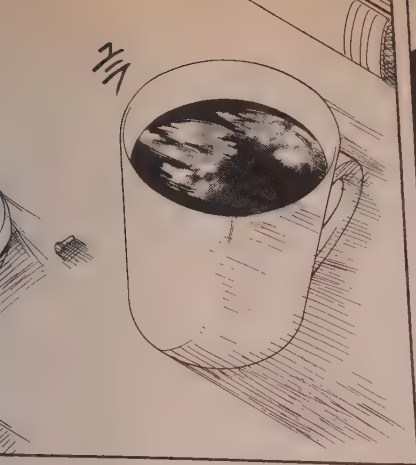
AM I
UPSETTING
HIM BY
STAYING
HERE?

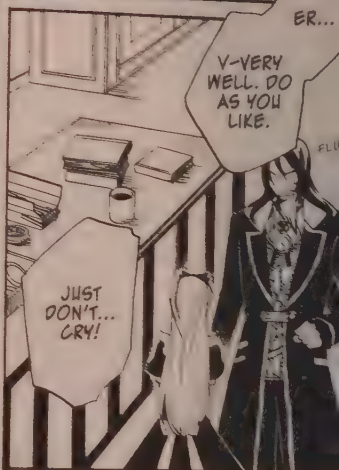
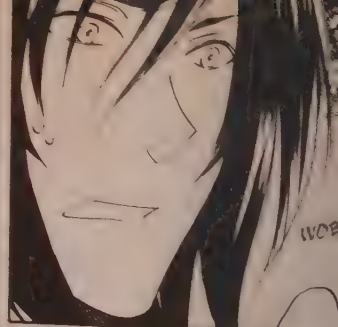


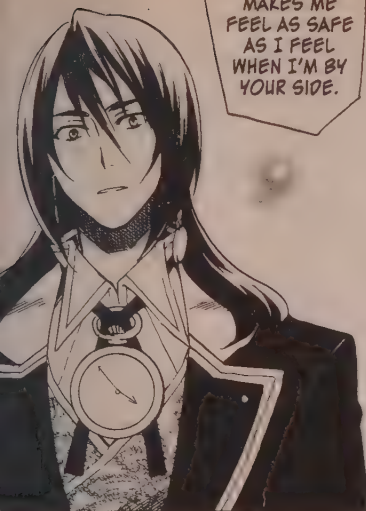
0 DRIP

I DIDN'T JUST STAY
HERE BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T TELL
ME TO LEAVE.

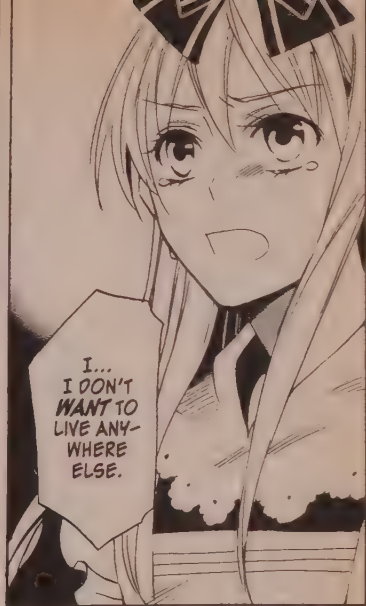




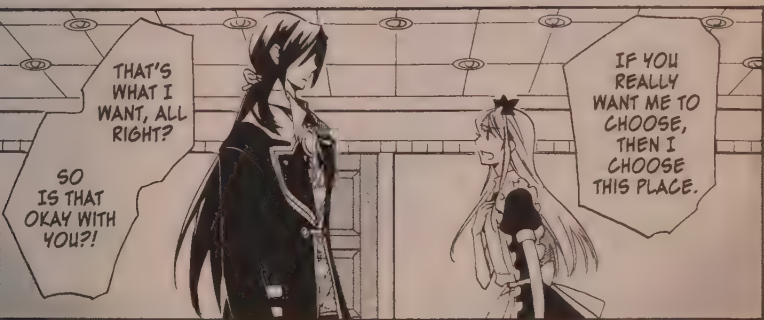




NOBODY IN
THIS WORLD
MAKES ME
FEEL AS SAFE
AS I FEEL
WHEN I'M BY
YOUR SIDE.



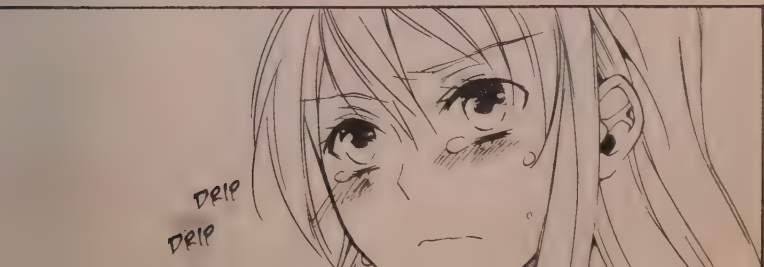
I...
I DON'T
WANT TO
LIVE ANY-
WHERE
ELSE.



THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT, ALL
RIGHT?

SO
IS THAT
OKAY WITH
YOU?!

IF YOU
REALLY
WANT ME TO
CHOOSE,
THEN I
CHOOSE
THIS PLACE.



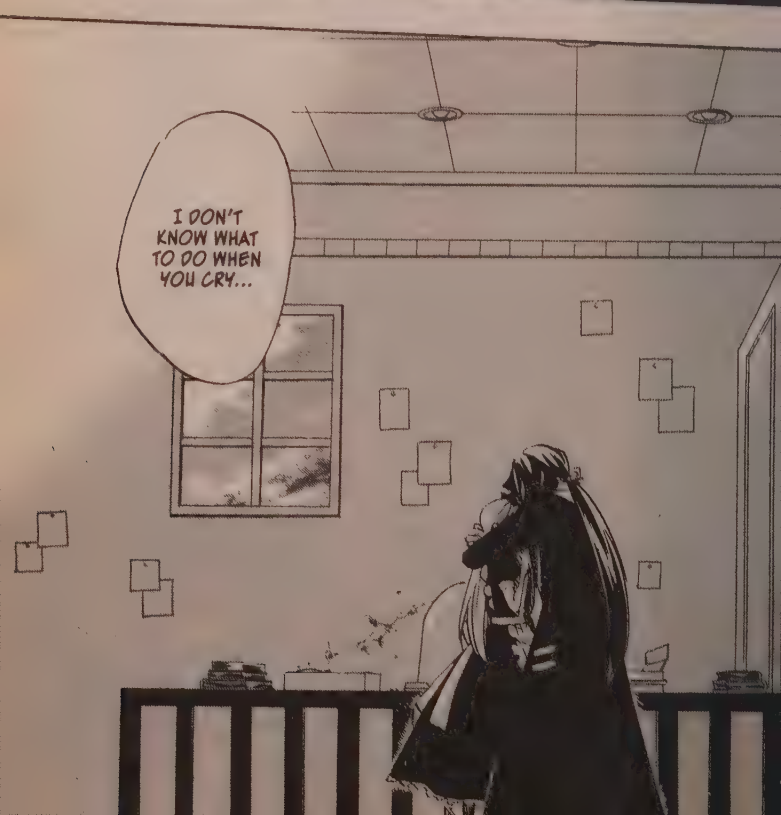
DRIP
DRIP



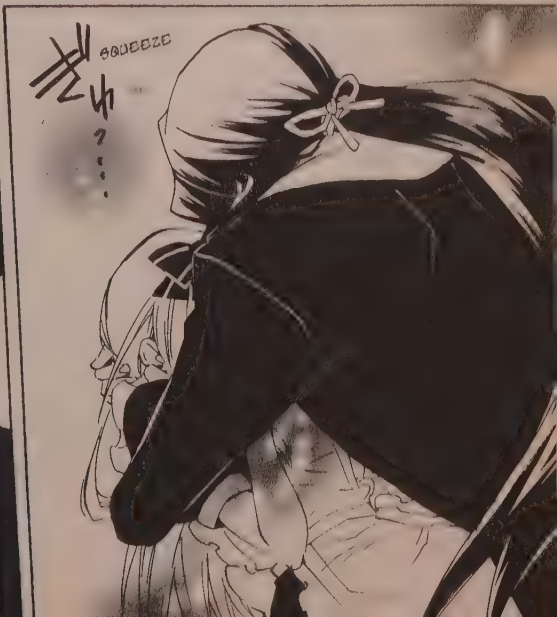
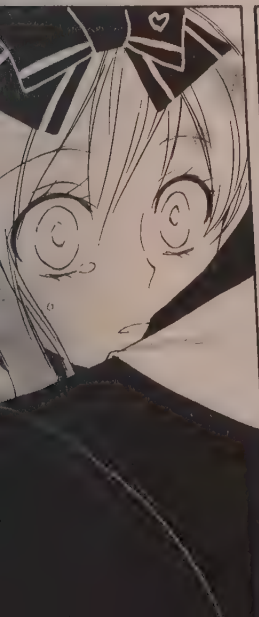
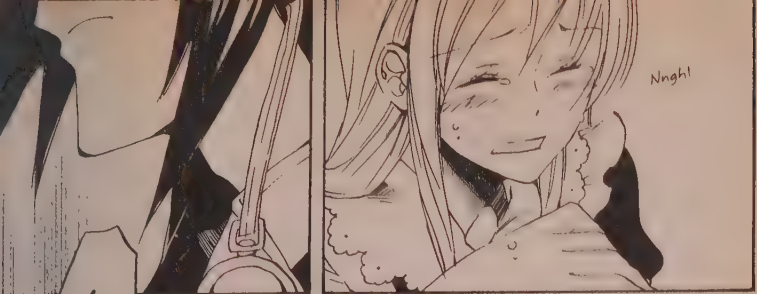
PLEASE...
PLEASE STOP
CRYING.

I DIDN'T
INTEND
TO UPSE
YOU.

I'M
SORRY.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO WHEN
YOU CRY...





Scary guy
at twelve
o'clock.

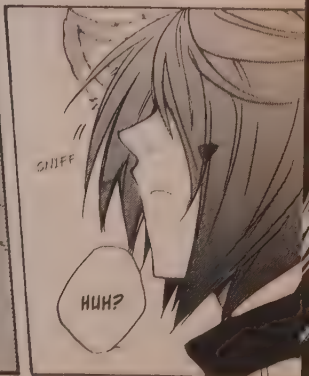
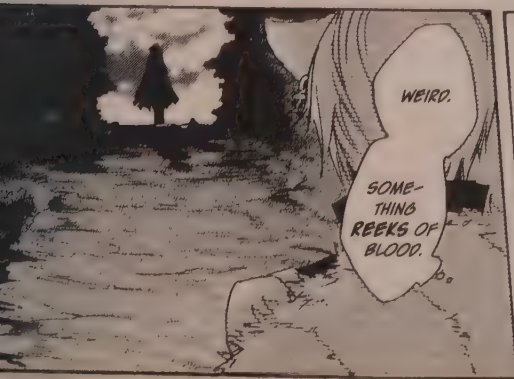


DUDE.



Phew!
YOU SURE
DID MAKE A
MESS. YOU
DO ALL THIS
BY YOUR-
SELF?

WHAT'S
UH, GO
ON?



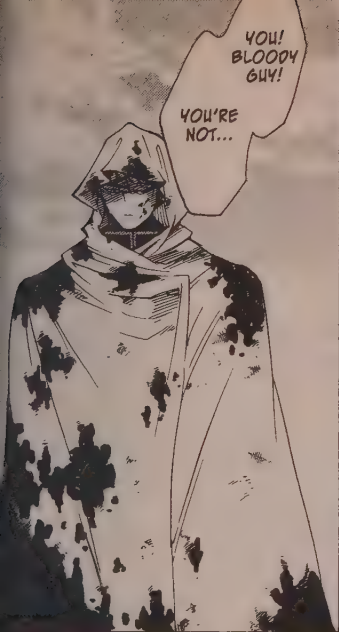


YOU?

IT
CAN'T
BE.

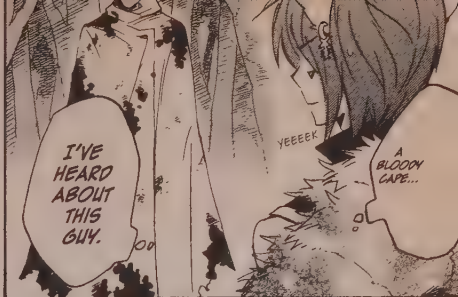
WELL,
WELL.

ENTER THE
CHESHIRE
CAT.



YOU!
BLOODY
GUY!

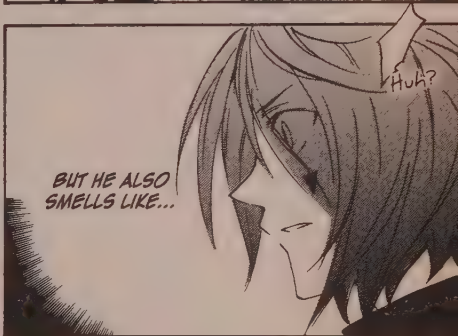
YOU'RE
NOT...



I'VE
HEARD
ABOUT
THIS
GUY.

YEEEEK

A
BLOODY
CAPE...



HUH?

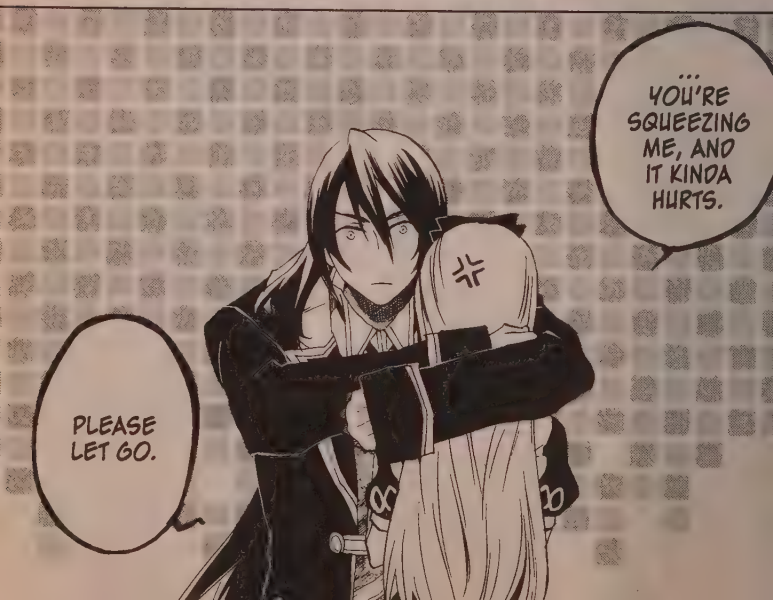
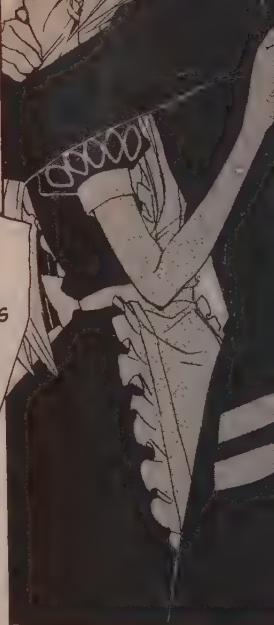
BUT HE ALSO
SMELLS LIKE...



HEY
THERE,
KITTY
CAT.



J-JULIUS
...



YOU'RE
SQUEEZING
ME, AND
IT KINDA
HURTS.

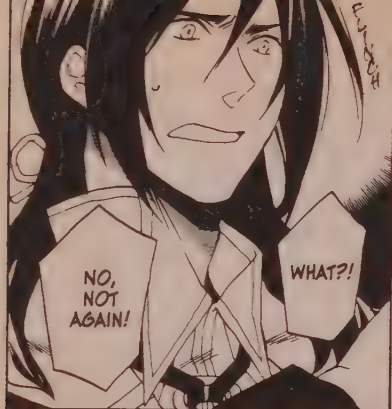
PLEASE
LET GO.



STILL FEEL
COMPLETELY
FE IN HIS
ARMS.

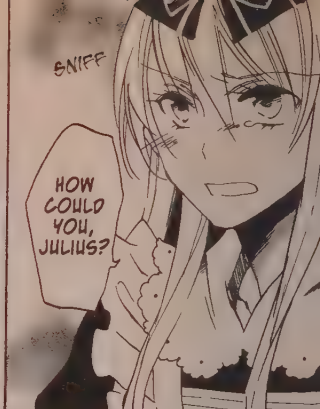
BUT...





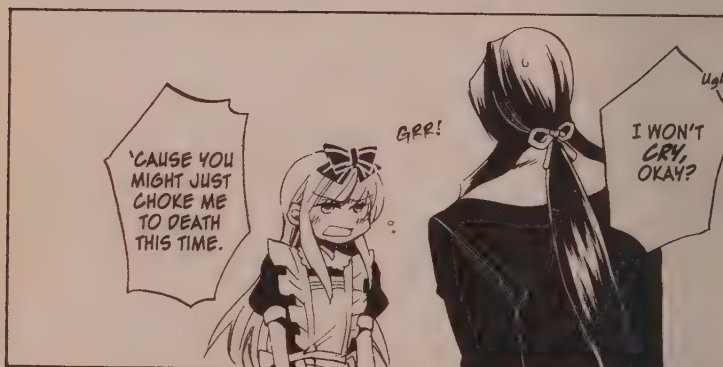
NO,
NOT
AGAIN!

WHAT?!



SNIFF

HOW
COULD
YOU,
JULIUS?



'CAUSE YOU
MIGHT JUST
CHOKE ME
TO DEATH
THIS TIME.

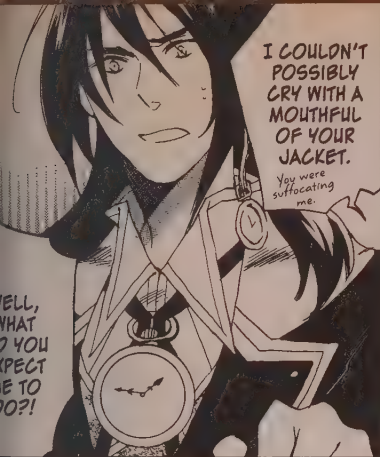
GRR!

I WON'T
CRY,
OKAY?



ALICE,
I MIS-
SPOKE.

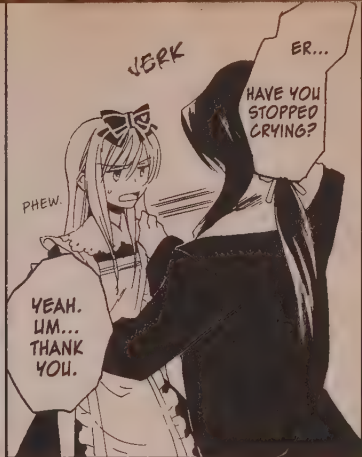
NO.



I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CRY WITH A MOUTHFUL OF YOUR JACKET.

You were suffocating me.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?!



VERK

ER...

HAVE YOU STOPPED CRYING?

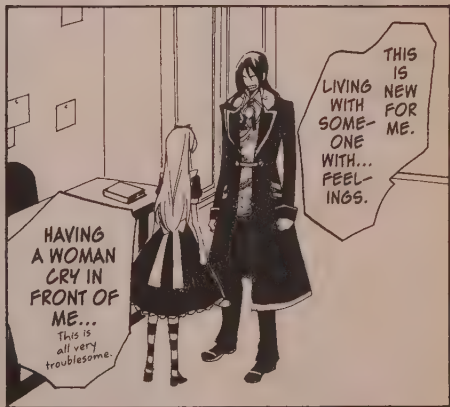
PHEW.

YEAH. UM... THANK YOU.



I'M... SUPREMELY INCONVENIENCED!

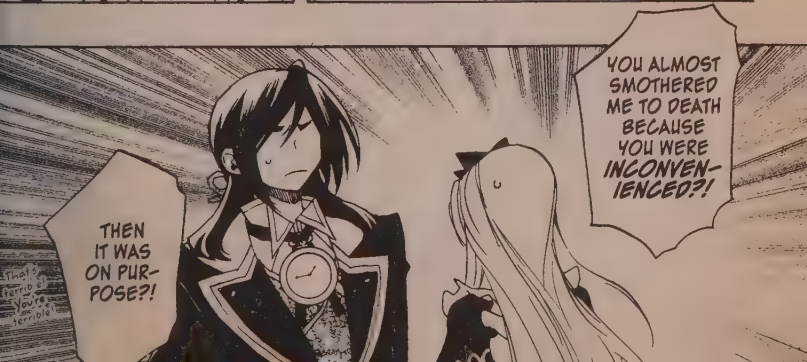
WHA?!



HAVING A WOMAN CRY IN FRONT OF ME...

This is all very troublesome.

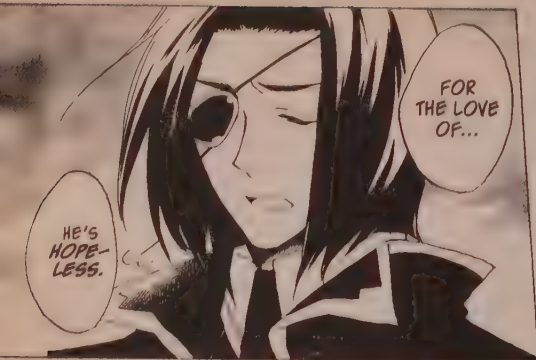
THIS IS NEW FOR ME. LIVING WITH SOMEONE WITH... FEELINGS.



THEN IT WAS ON PURPOSE?!

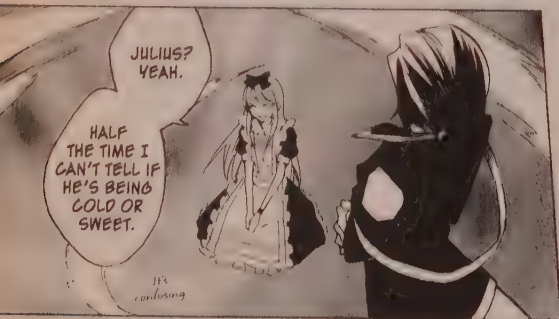
YOU ALMOST SMOTHERED ME TO DEATH BECAUSE YOU WERE INCONVENIENCED?!

That's terrible!
You're terrible!



FOR
THE LOVE
OF...

HE'S
HOPE-
LESS.



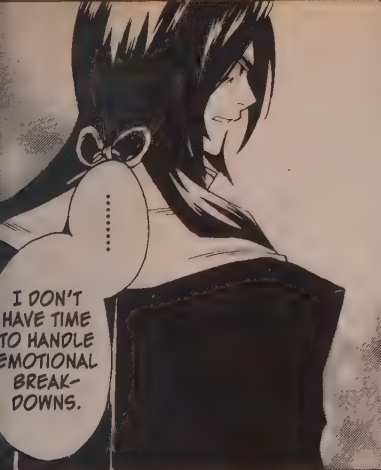
JULIUS?
YEAH.

HALF
THE TIME I
CAN'T TELL IF
HE'S BEING
COLD OR
SWEET.

It's
confusing



BUT TH
WHAT M
HIM WH
IS, I GU

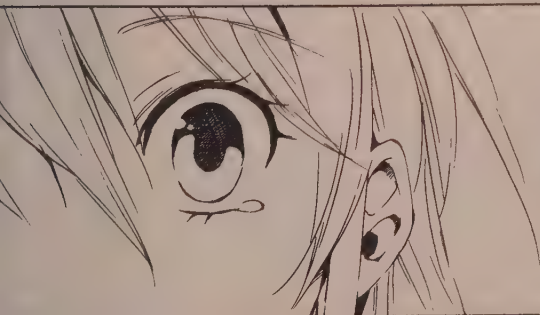


I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO HANDLE
EMOTIONAL
BREAK-
DOWNS.



AND
REGARD-
ING YOU
STAYING
HERE.

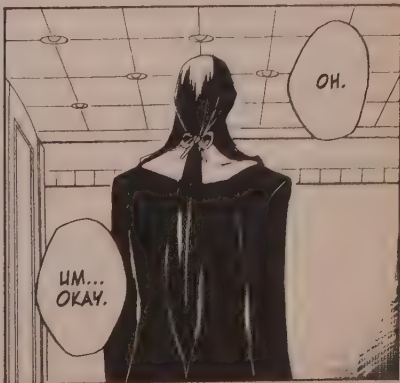
FOR-
GET
WHAT
I
SAID.



SO IF
LEAVING
WILL MAKE
YOU CRY, I
SUPPOSE YOU
SHOULDN'T
LEAVE.



THAT'S
GOOD
THEN.



OH.

UM...
OKAY.





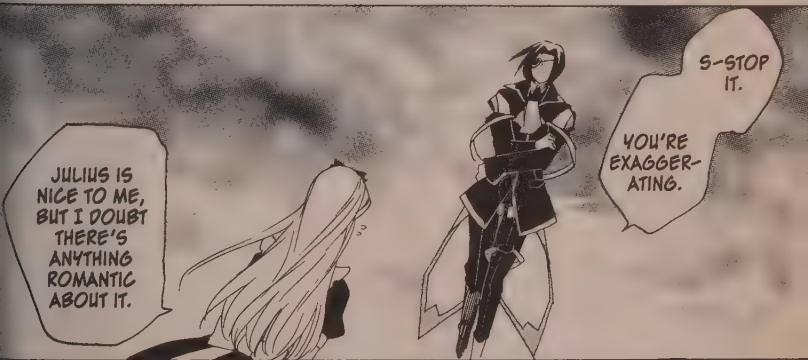
IF HE
HAS A THING
FOR YOU, HE
SHOULD SAY
IT OUTRIGHT.

WHAT A
WASTE.

A
RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN *YOU*
TWO MIGHT
ACTUALLY
END WELL.

A
WASTE?

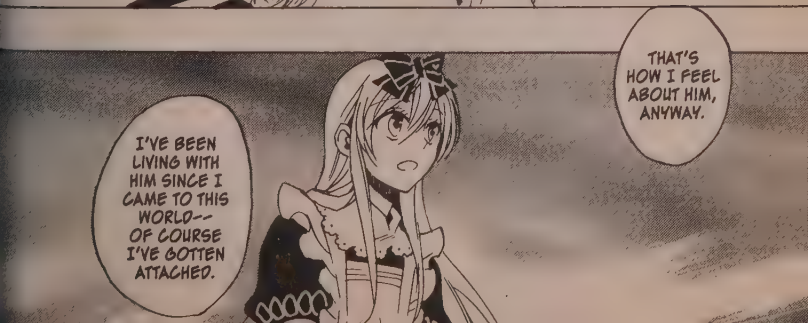
HUH
...?



JULIUS IS
NICE TO ME,
BUT I DOUBT
THERE'S
ANYTHING
ROMANTIC
ABOUT IT.

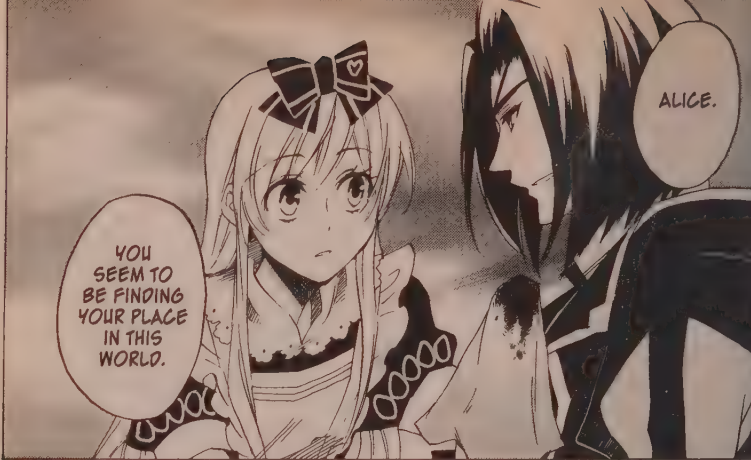
S-STOP
IT.

YOU'RE
EXAGGER-
ATING.



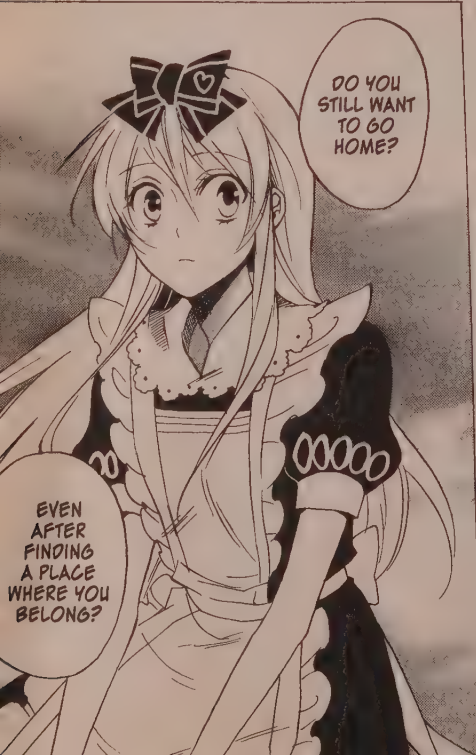
I'VE BEEN
LIVING WITH
HIM SINCE I
CAME TO THIS
WORLD--
OF COURSE
I'VE GOTTEN
ATTACHED.

THAT'S
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT HIM,
ANYWAY.

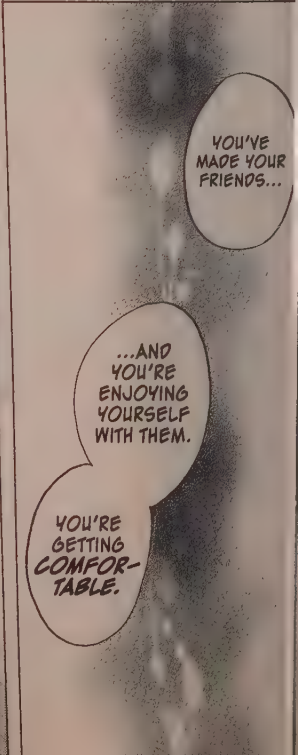
A black and white manga panel. On the right, a boy with dark hair and a white scarf looks towards the left. On the left, a girl with long, light-colored hair and a large bow with a heart on it looks back at him. She is wearing a dark dress with white lace. A speech bubble from the girl is on the left, and a speech bubble from the boy is on the right.

YOU
SEEM TO
BE FINDING
YOUR PLACE
IN THIS
WORLD.

ALICE.

A black and white manga panel. A girl with long, light-colored hair and a large bow with a heart on it is looking forward. She is wearing a dark dress with white lace. A speech bubble is next to her head.

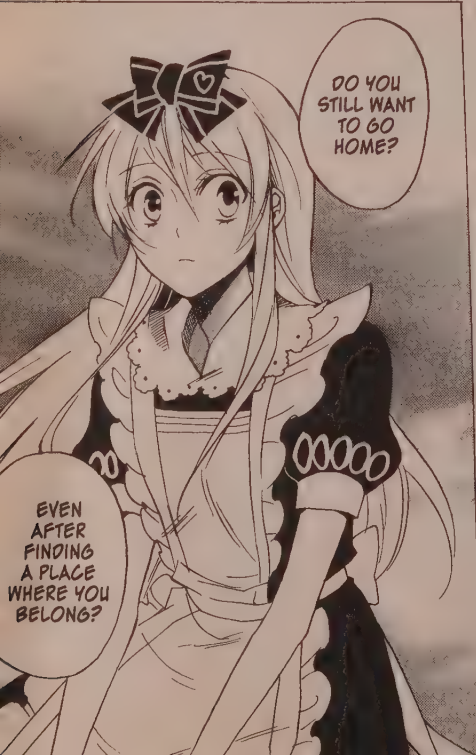
DO YOU
STILL WANT
TO GO
HOME?

A black and white manga panel. The background is dark and textured. There are three speech bubbles arranged vertically on the right side.

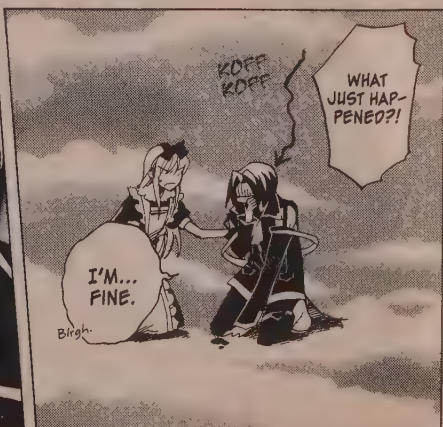
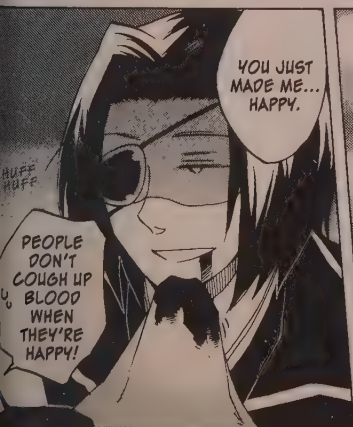
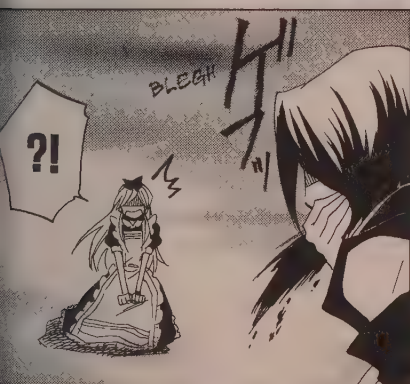
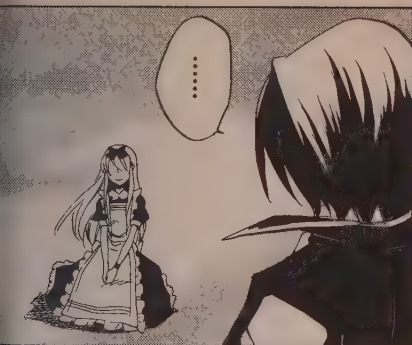
YOU'VE
MADE YOUR
FRIENDS...

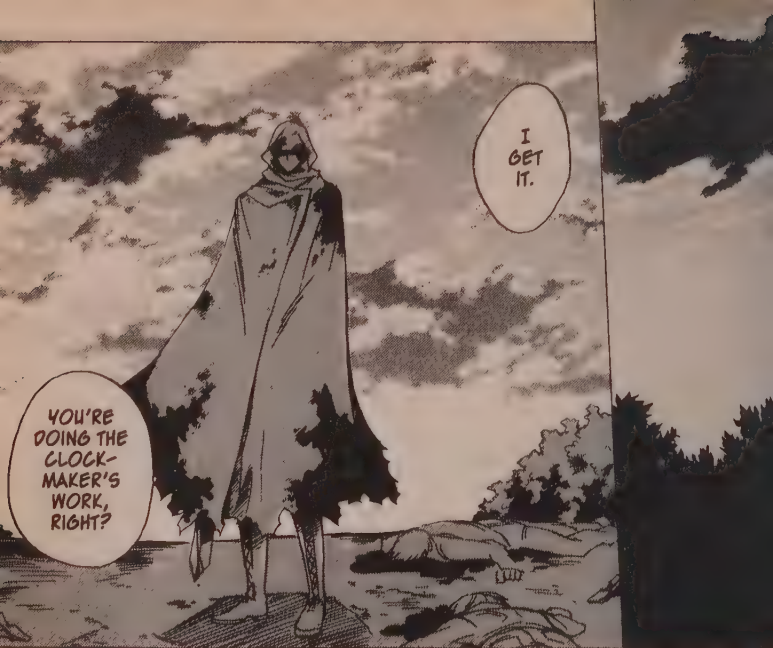
...AND
YOU'RE
ENJOYING
YOURSELF
WITH THEM.

YOU'RE
GETTING
COMFOR-
TABLE.

A black and white manga panel. A girl with long, light-colored hair and a large bow with a heart on it is looking forward. She is wearing a dark dress with white lace. A speech bubble is next to her head.

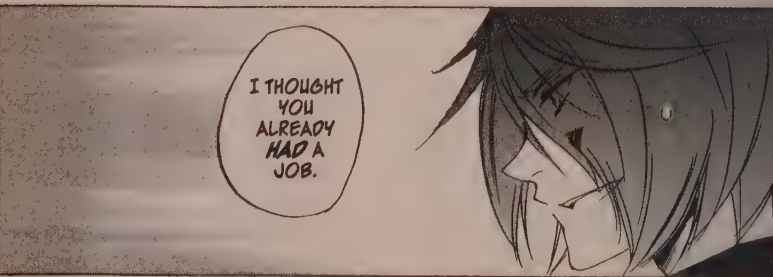
EVEN
AFTER
FINDING
A PLACE
WHERE YOU
BELONG?





YOU'RE
DOING THE
CLOCK-
MAKER'S
WORK,
RIGHT?

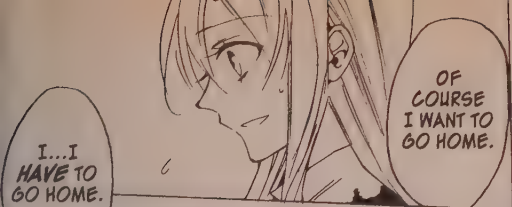
I
GET
IT.



I THOUGHT
YOU
ALREADY
HAD A
JOB.



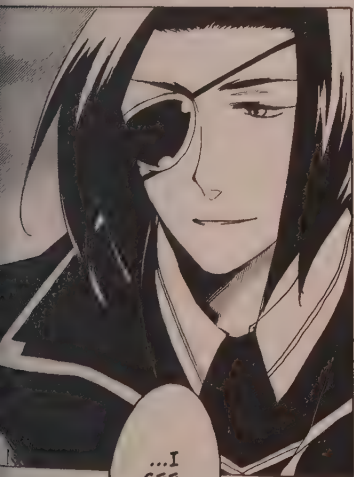
NOT THAT
I'M GONNA
RAT YOU OUT
TO YOUR
BOSS OR
ANYTHING.



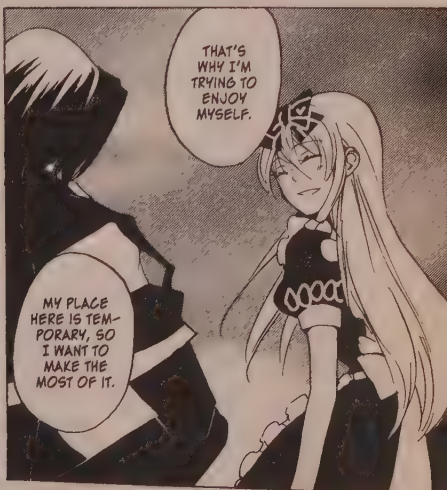
I...I HAVE TO GO HOME.



WH-WHAT?



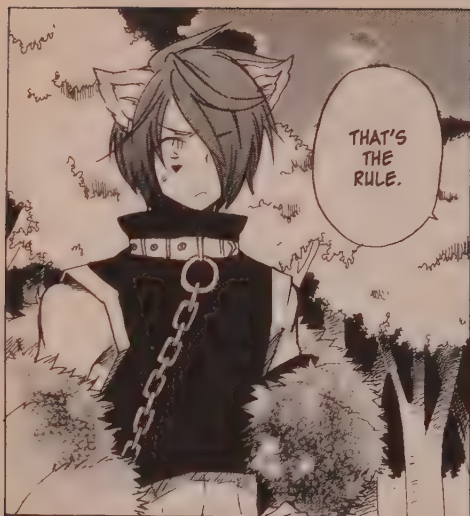
...I SEE.



THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO ENJOY MYSELF.

MY PLACE HERE IS TEMPORARY, SO I WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

AN ANSWER LIKE THAT IS VERY TYPICAL OF YOU.



THAT'S
THE
RULE.



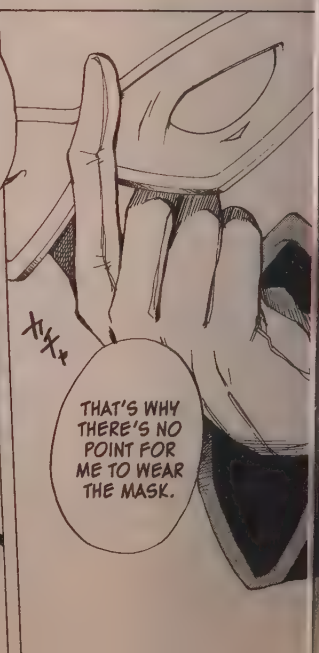
YEAH.

I
KNOW.



NOBODY
CAN SEE
ME...

...UN-
LESS I'M
FULFILLING
MY PROPER
ROLE.



THAT'S WHY
THERE'S NO
POINT FOR
ME TO WEAR
THE MASK.

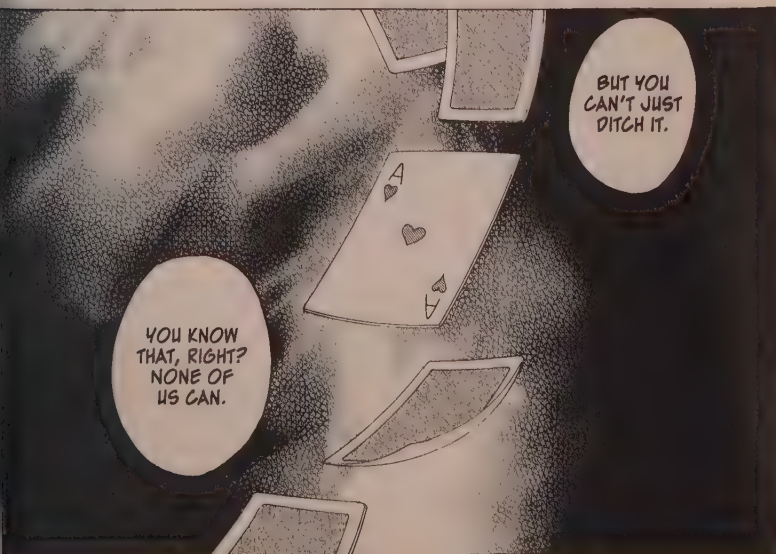


LOOK. IT'S
OBVIOUS
YOU DON'T
LIKE YOUR
REGULAR
GIG.



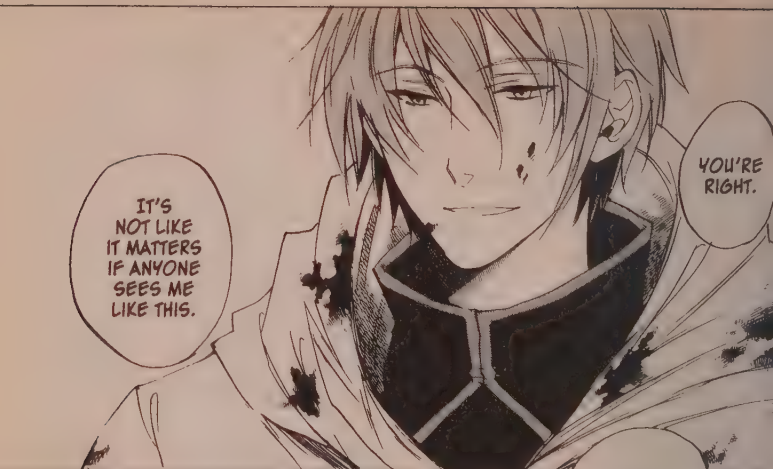
EVEN IF I
DID, YOU'D
NEVER GET
CANNED.

SO WHY
BOTHER?



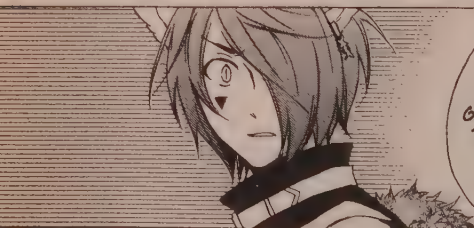
YOU KNOW
THAT, RIGHT?
NONE OF
US CAN.

BUT YOU
CAN'T JUST
DITCH IT.



IT'S
NOT LIKE
IT MATTERS
IF ANYONE
SEES ME
LIKE THIS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



ANYWAY.
I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO HANG
AROUND
HERE.

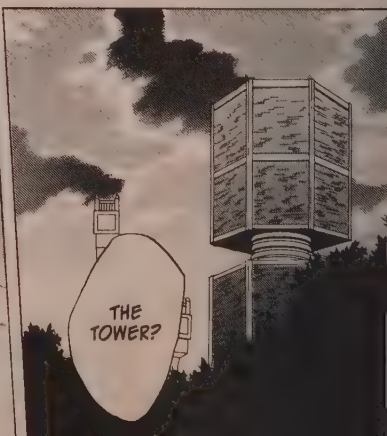
I HAVE TO
GET BACK TO
THE CLOCK
TOWER.



NOW?!

UH...
YEAH?
I'M HELP-
ING OUT
THERE?

I
THOUGHT
YOU SAID
YOU
UNDER-
STOOD.



THE
TOWER?



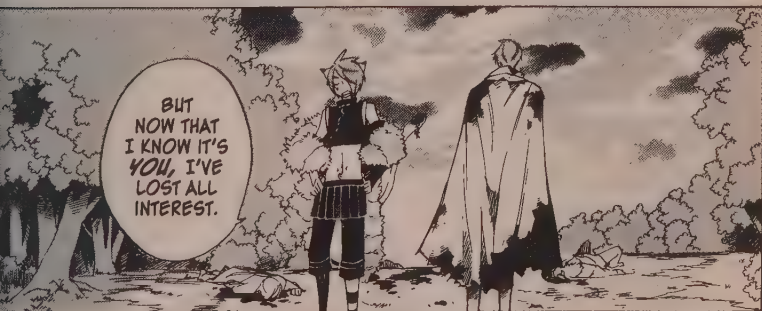
I'M CURIOUS
SO I
CAN'T
HELP IT.

I WANTED TO
FIND THE GUY
IN THE BLOODY
CLOAK EVERY-
ONE'S TALKING
ABOUT SO I
COULD HAVE
SOME FUN.



HUNH.

HOW SAD.



BUT
NOW THAT
I KNOW IT'S
YOU, I'VE
LOST ALL
INTEREST.



PLAY
WITH ME
THE NEXT
TIME I SNEAK
INTO THE
CASTLE, SIR
KNIGHT.

WAVE

I CAN
SHOOT IT
UP WITH YOU
ANYTIME
I WANT.



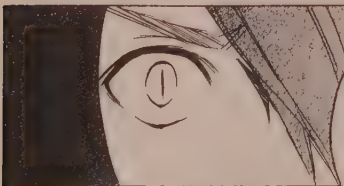
BUT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

SHE
ALREADY
KNOWS.



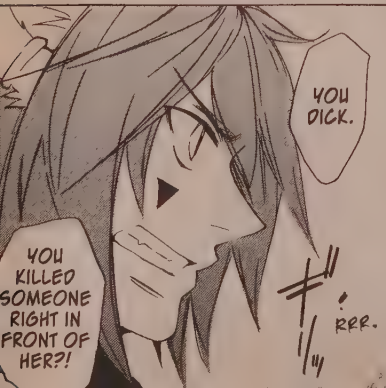
OH.

YOU
AND ALICE,
HUH? LIKE
EVERYONE
ELSE.



SHE TOLD
ME NOT TO KILL
ANYONE...EVEN
AN ENEMY WHO
WAS TRYING
TO KILL ME.

SHE
DIDN'T FAINT
OR ANYTHING.
IN FACT, SHE
WAS REALLY
TYPICAL.



YOU
DICK.

YOU
KILLED
SOMEONE
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
HER?!

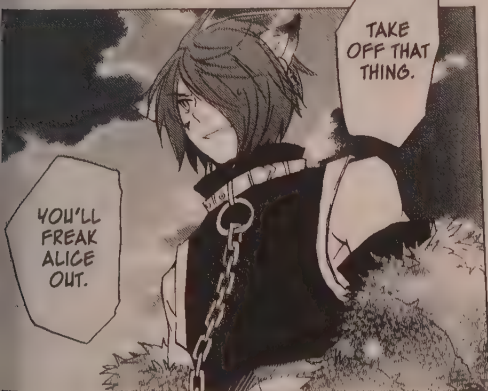
RRR.



THEN
THAT
WAS...

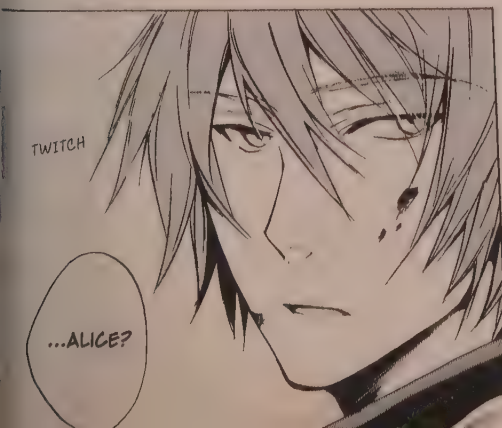


"LIFE IS
PRECIOUS."



TAKE
OFF THAT
THING.

YOU'LL
FREAK
ALICE
OUT.

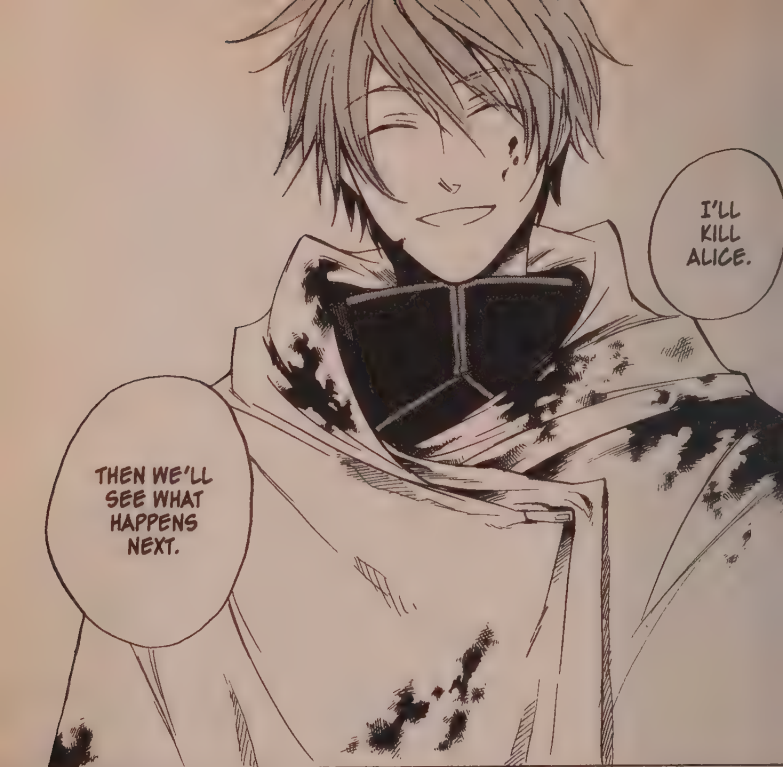


TWITCH

...ALICE?

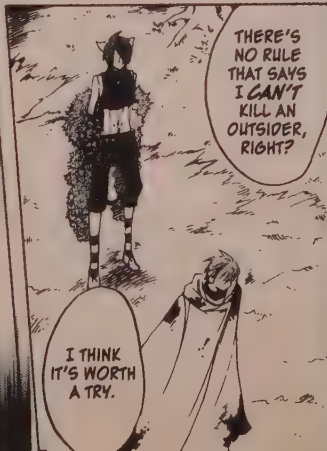


NO,
I MEAN...
YOU'RE
GOING,
DRESSED
LIKE THAT?



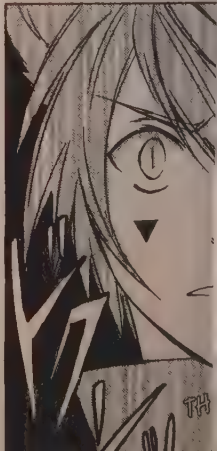
THEN WE'LL
SEE WHAT
HAPPENS
NEXT.

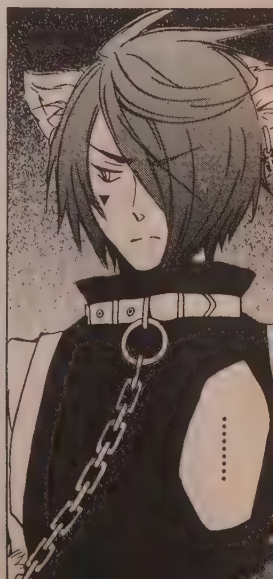
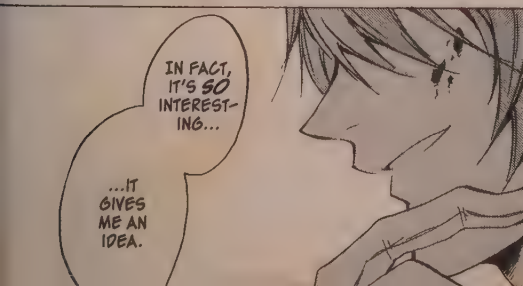
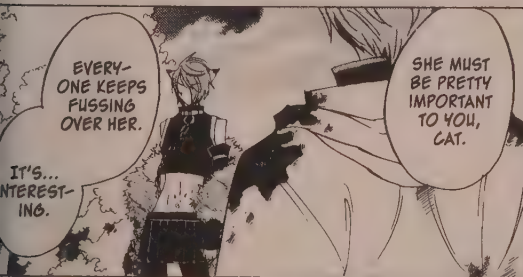
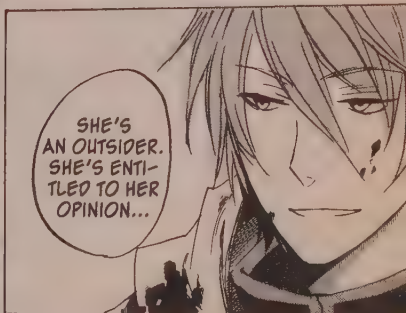
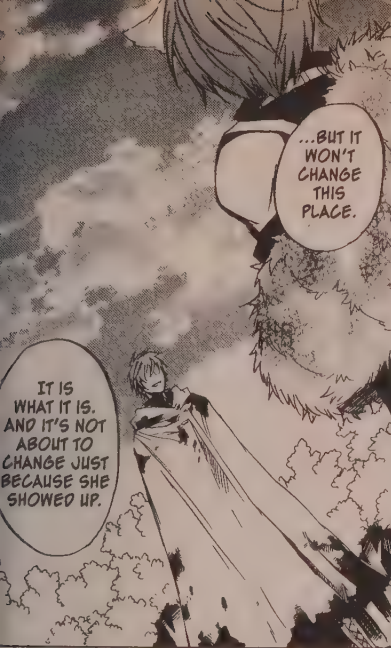
I'LL
KILL
ALICE.



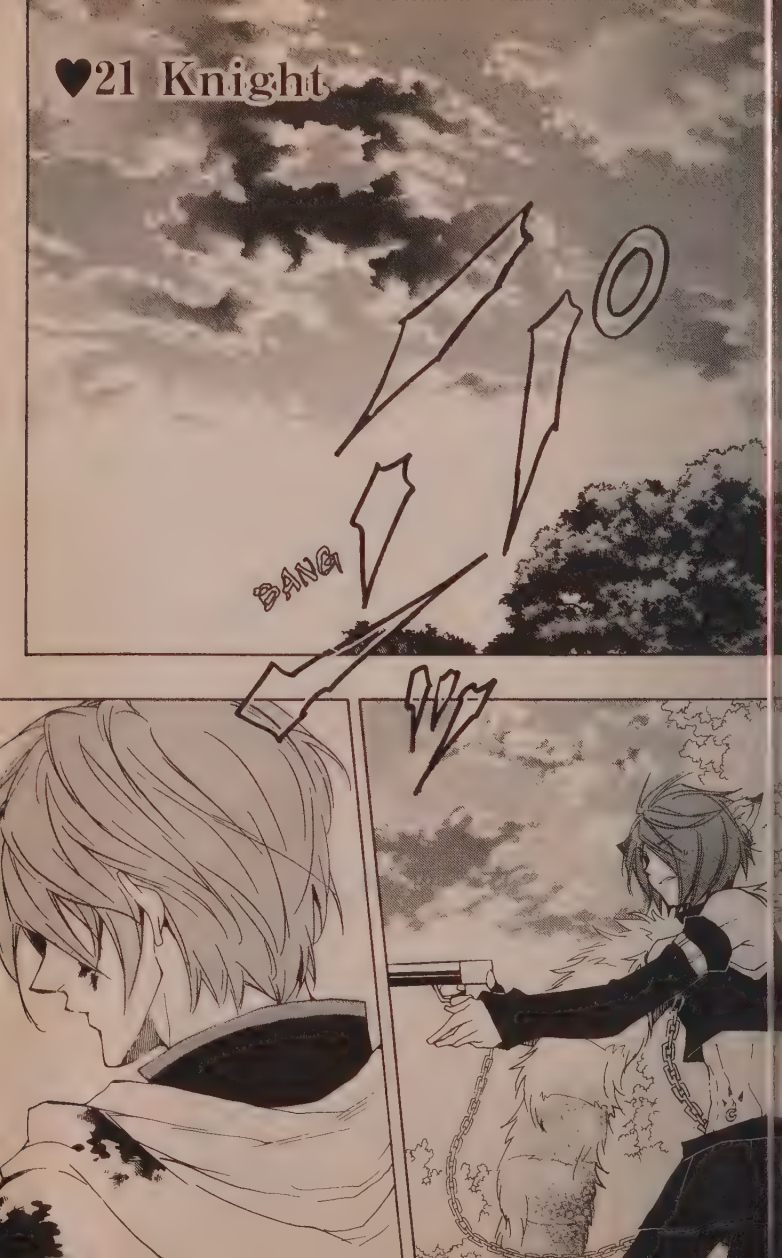
THERE'S
NO RULE
THAT SAYS
I CAN'T
KILL AN
OUTSIDER,
RIGHT?

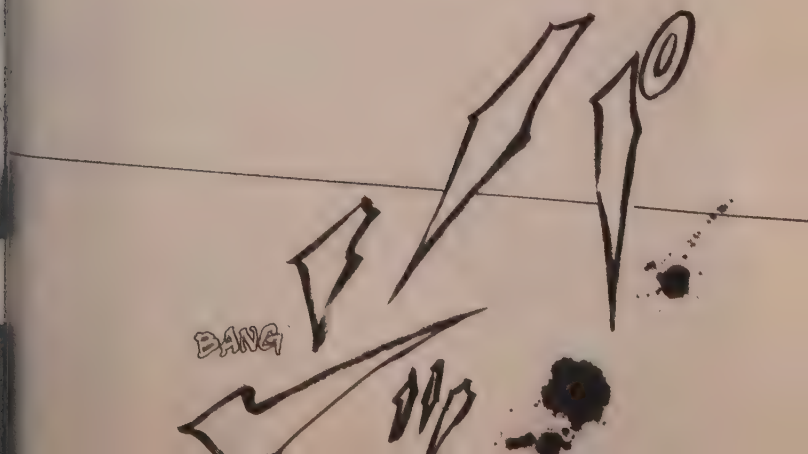
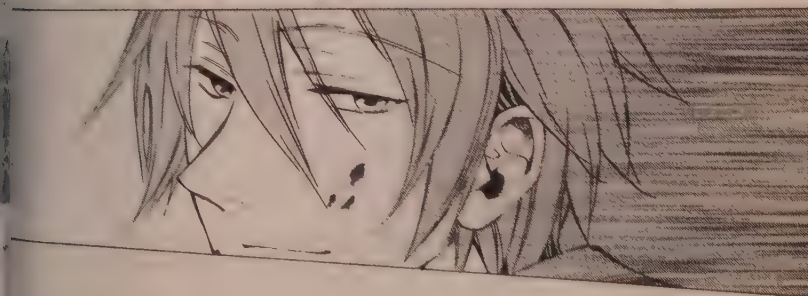
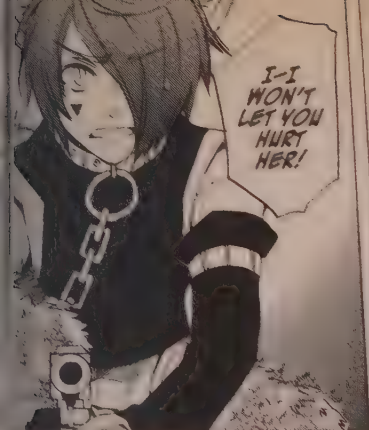
I THINK
IT'S WORTH
A TRY.

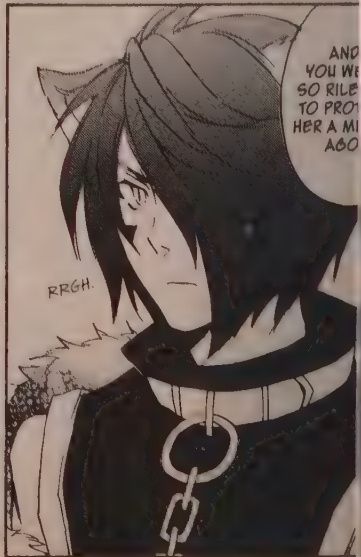
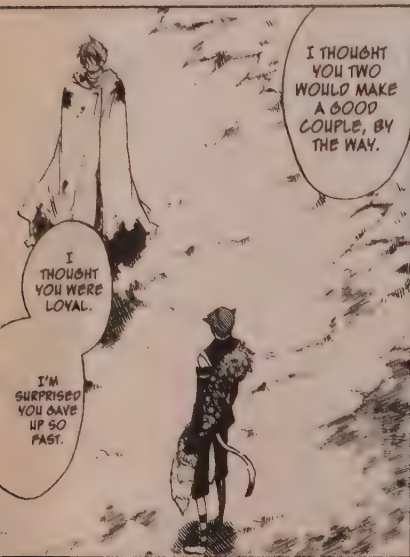
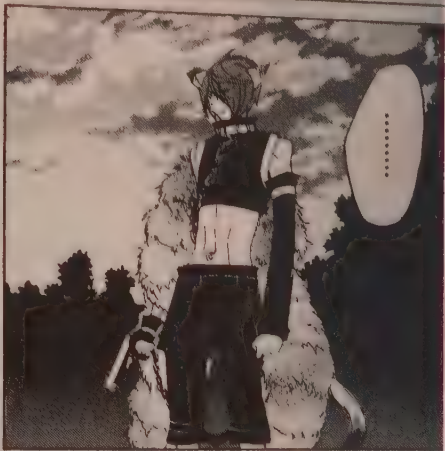
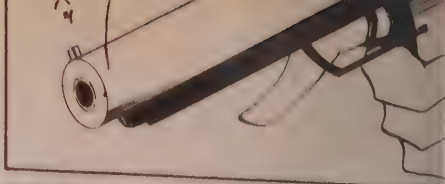


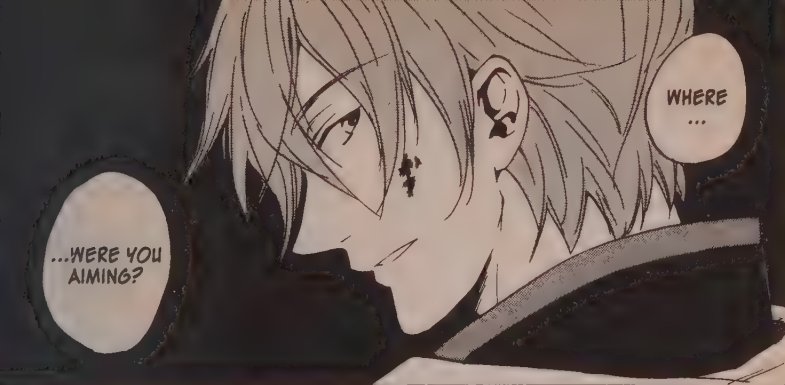


♥21 Knight



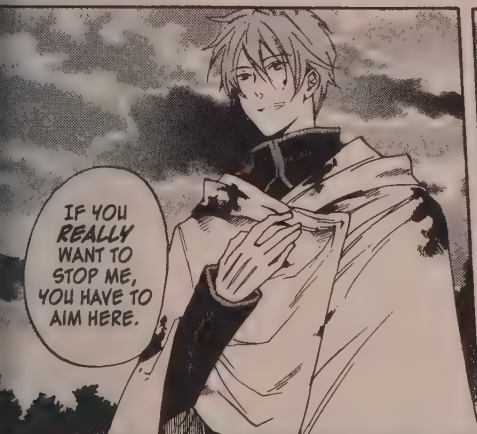






...WERE YOU
AIMING?

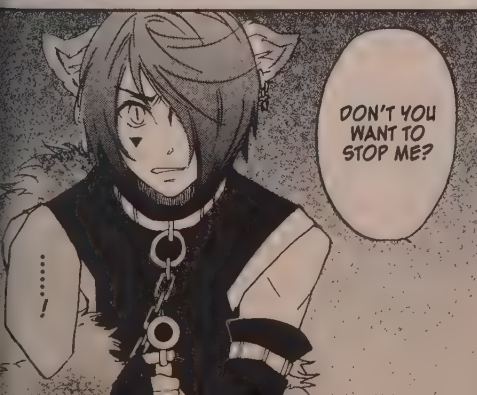
WHERE
...



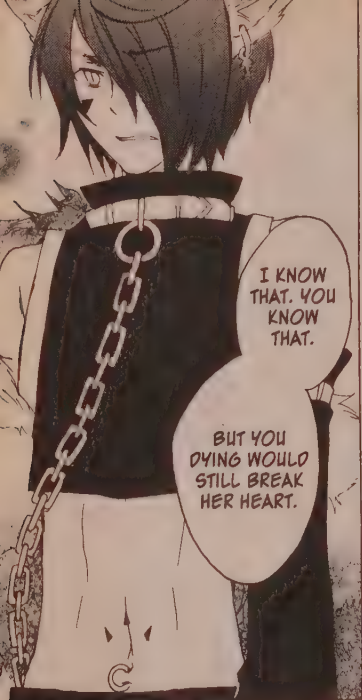
IF YOU
REALLY
WANT TO
STOP ME,
YOU HAVE TO
AIM HERE.



YOU
DIDN'T
EVEN
GRAZE
ME.



DON'T YOU
WANT TO
STOP ME?



I KNOW
THAT. YOU
KNOW
THAT.

BUT YOU
DYING WOULD
STILL BREAK
HER HEART.



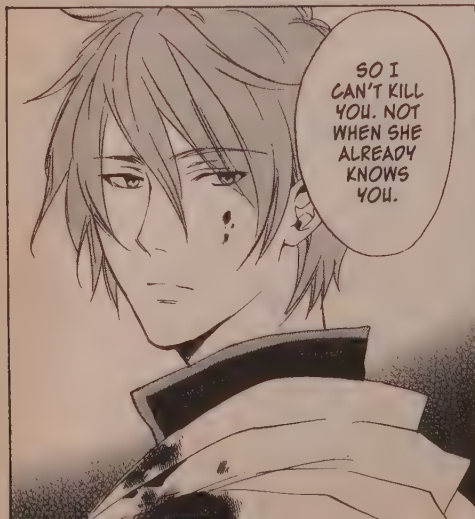
YOU'RE
KIDDING.



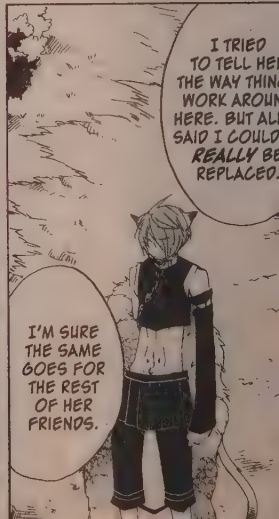
ALICE
WOULD
CRY.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M HER
LOVER OR
ANYTHING.

AND
THERE ARE
PLENTY OF
REPLACE-
MENTS
FOR ME.

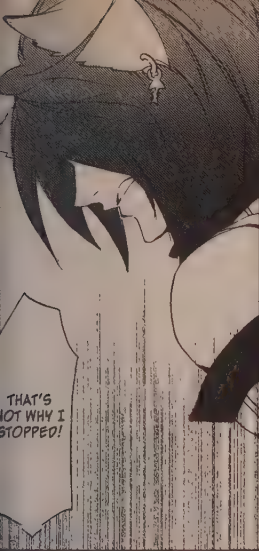


SO I
CAN'T KILL
YOU. NOT
WHEN SHE
ALREADY
KNOWS
YOU.



I TRIED
TO TELL HER
THE WAY THING
WORK AROUND
HERE. BUT ALICE
SAID I COULD
REALLY BE
REPLACED.

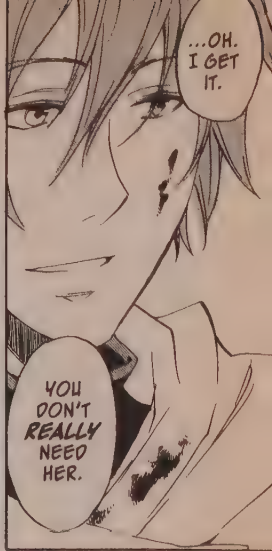
I'M SURE
THE SAME
GOES FOR
THE REST
OF HER
FRIENDS.



THAT'S
NOT WHY I
STOPPED!

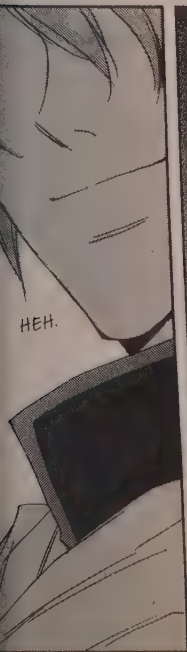
THE
GAME
KEEPS
GOING
WITH OR
WITHOUT AN
OUTSIDER.

SO WHY
BOTHR
PROTECTING
ONE?



...OH.
I GET
IT.

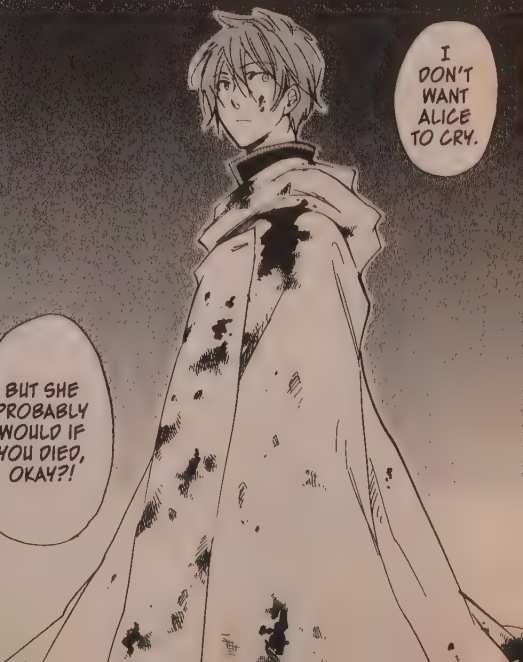
YOU
DON'T
REALLY
NEED
HER.



HEH.

BUT SHE
PROBABLY
WOULD IF
YOU DIED,
OKAY?!

I
DON'T
WANT
ALICE
TO CRY.

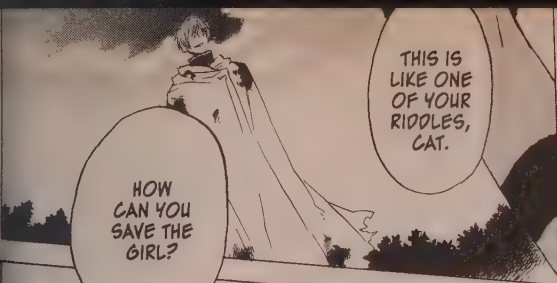




HA
HA!

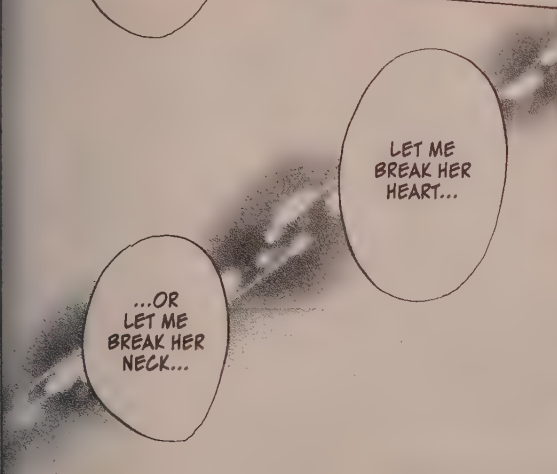
YOU'RE
SUCH A
ROMANTIC.

STILL...



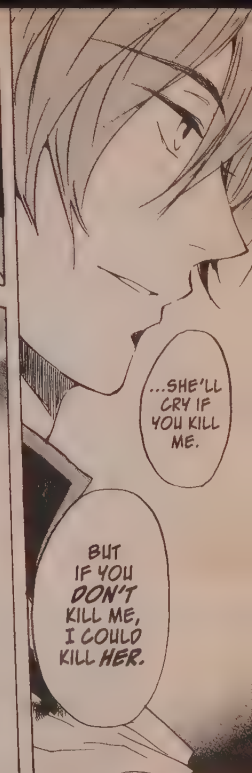
THIS IS
LIKE ONE
OF YOUR
RIDDLES,
CAT.

HOW
CAN YOU
SAVE THE
GIRL?



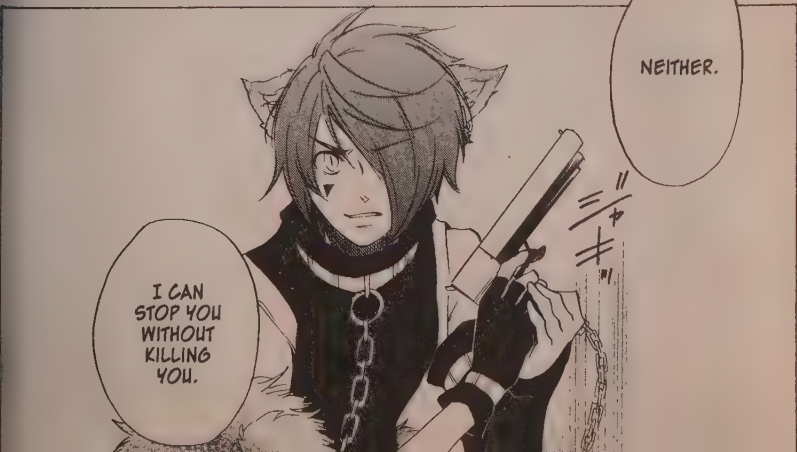
LET ME
BREAK HER
HEART...

...OR
LET ME
BREAK HER
NECK...



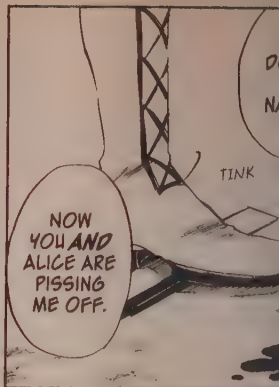
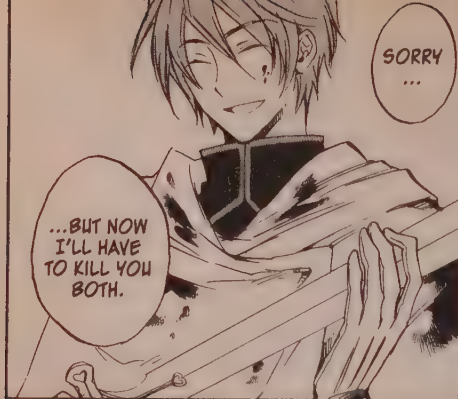
...SHE'LL
CRY IF
YOU KILL
ME.

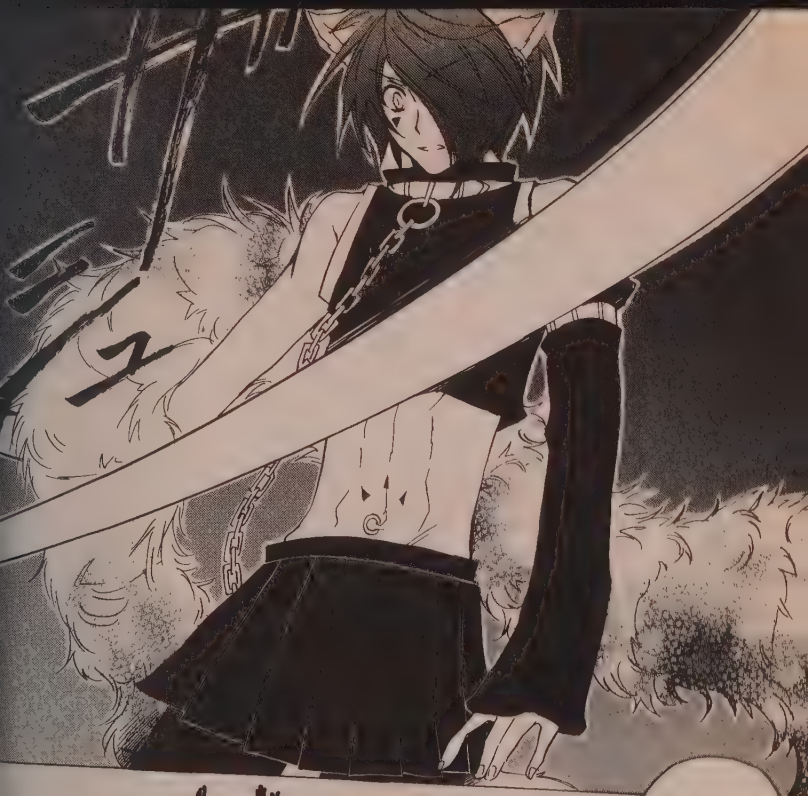
BUT
IF YOU
DON'T
KILL ME,
I **COULD**
KILL **HER**.



NEITHER.

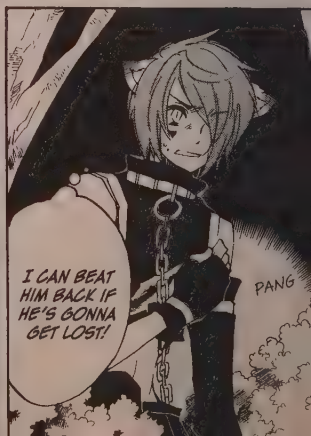
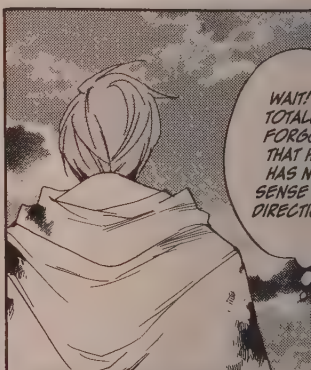
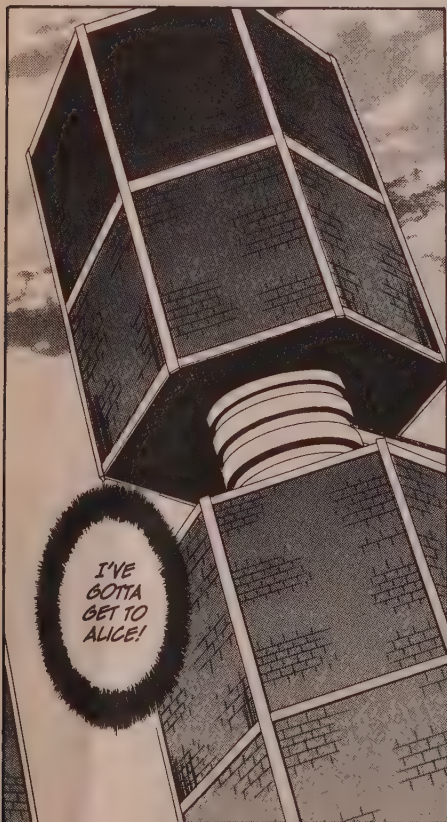
I CAN
STOP YOU
WITHOUT
KILLING
YOU.

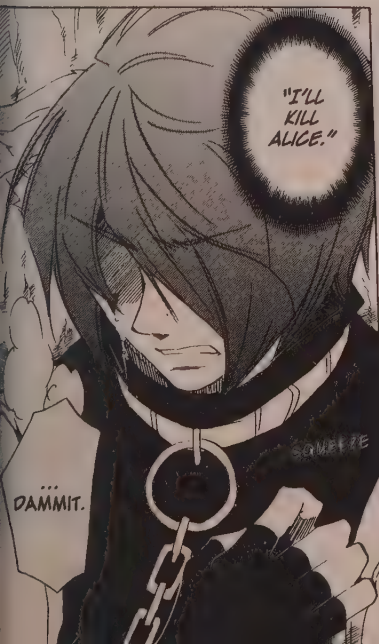
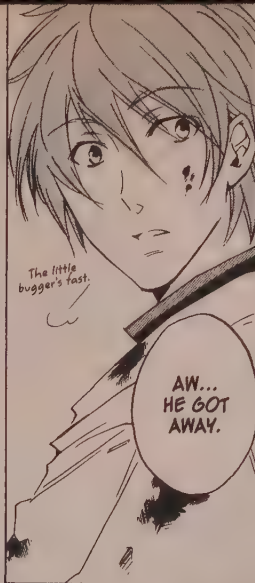
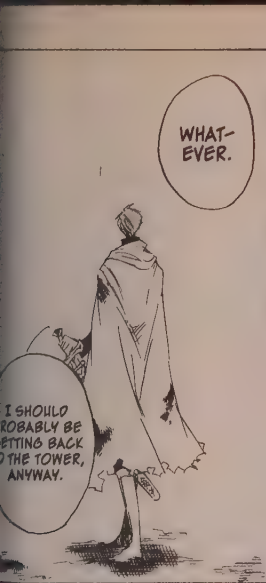


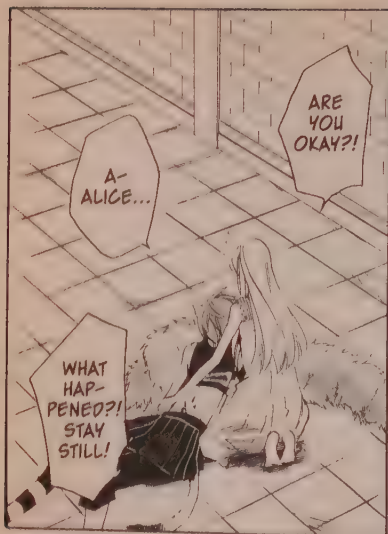


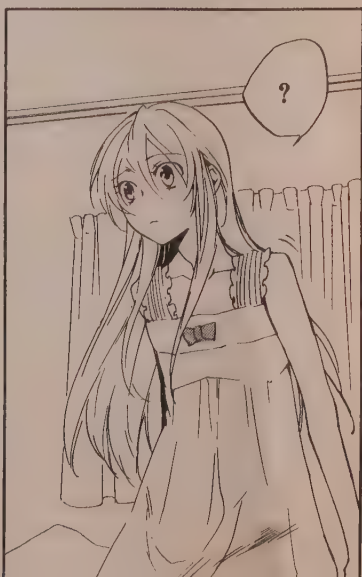
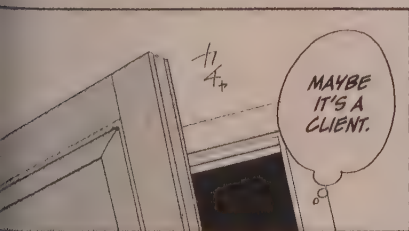
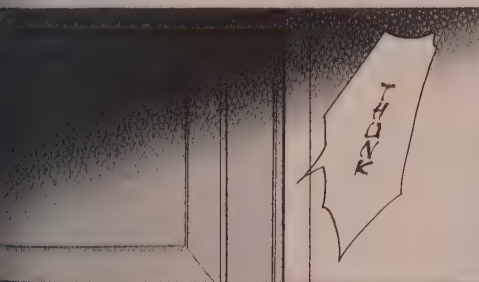
YOU
CAN'T STOP A
PROFESSIONAL
BY AIMING AT
HIS FEET.

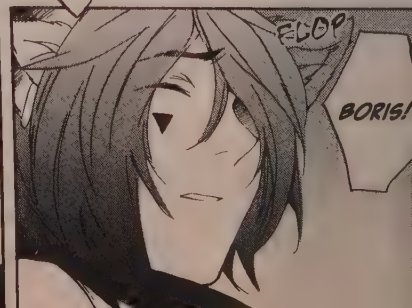
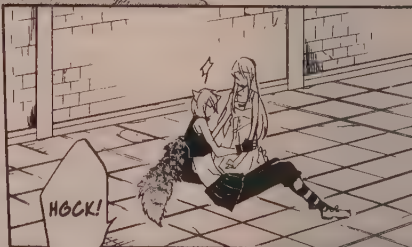
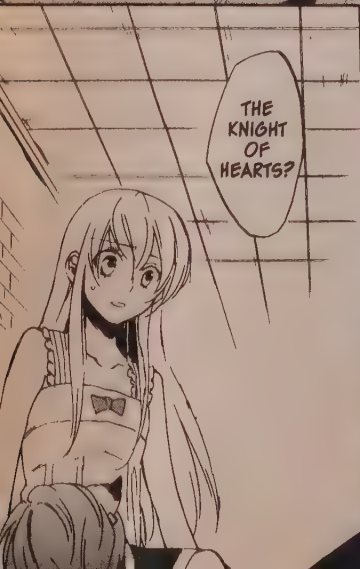
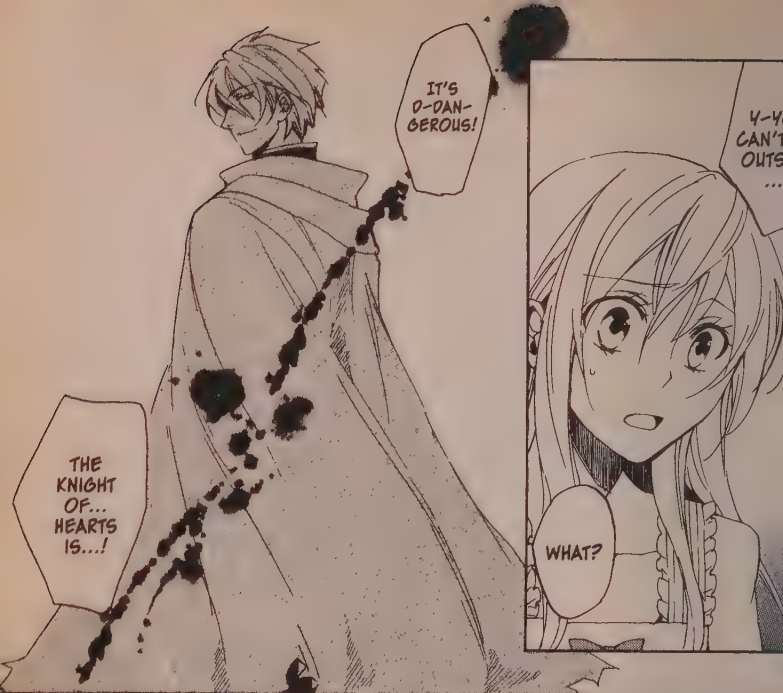














I
PROMISED
YOU I'D
BE MORE
CAREFUL...

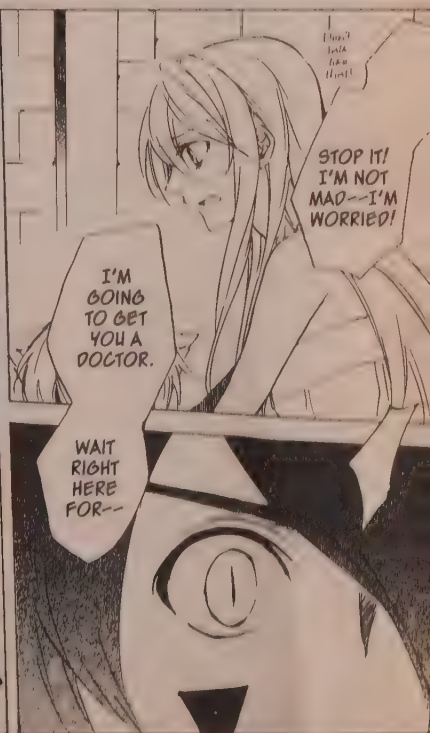
I'M
S-SORRY,
ALICE.

I
D-DIDN'T
MEAN
TO MAKE
YOU...
MAD...



GRAB

YOU
CAN'T!



I don't
talk
like
that!

STOP IT!
I'M NOT
MAD--I'M
WORRIED!

I'M
GOING
TO GET
YOU A
DOCTOR.

WAIT
RIGHT
HERE
FOR--

♥22 Coming Uneasiness

LOOKIE
LOOKIE,
BROTHER!

FLOWERS!

WOOOOW.

COOL,
BROTHER!

YEAH--
IT'LL GET
CAUGHT IN
THE DRAINS
AND STUFF!
HA HA HA!

THIS IS
GONNA MAKE
IT REEEAL
HARD FOR
THE JANITORS
TO CLEAN
THE BATH.

WA
HA
HA!

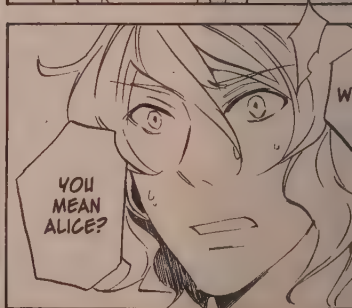
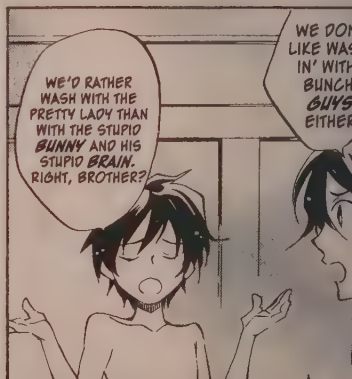
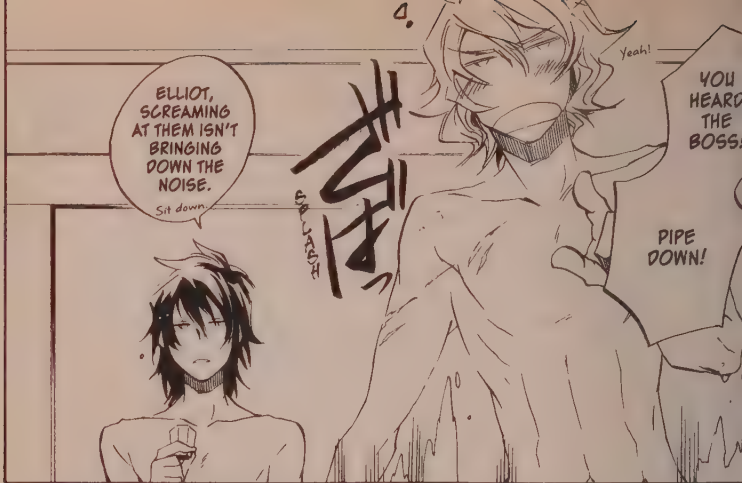
AH,
HELL.

YEAH!
HA HA
HA!

IT'S
FUNNY
'CAUSE
IT'S NO
OUR JO



ACE...?



AND AFTER
THE WEEK
I HAD, I
REALLY
DON'T
NEED
THIS.

I CAN'T
RELAX WITH
YOU TWO
SCREECH-
ING OVER
THERE.

JUST
DROWN
ALREADY,
WILL YA?

YEAH,
DRUNK
RABBIT--IF
OU DON'T
LIKE IT,
GO AWAY.

ARE YOU
DRUNK,
RABBIT?
GO
AWAY.

NUH-UH!
FIRST IN
HASTA
BE FIRST
OUT.

YEAH!

AN' YOUR
STUPID BRAIN'S
GONNA MELT
IF YOU SPEND
TOO LONG
IN THE BATH,
BUNNY! GO
AWAY!

I WAS HERE
BEFORE YOU
LITTLE WRETCHES
CANNONBALLED
IN! IF ANYONE'S
GETTING OUT,
IT'S YOU!

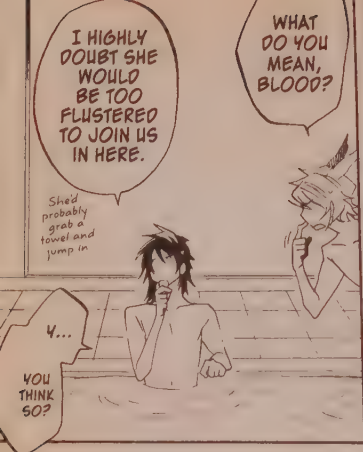
SENIORITY
RULES!

WHAT
THE
HELL?!

Spare
me.

THIS BATH IS
MISERABLE
ENOUGH WITH
FOUR MEN IN
IT--YOU'RE
ONLY MAKING
IT WORSE.

KEEP IT
DOWN.
ALL OF
YOU.



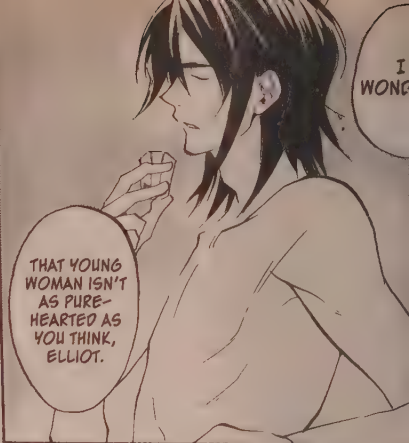
I HIGHLY DOUBT SHE WOULD BE TOO FLUSTERED TO JOIN US IN HERE.

She'd probably grab a towel and jump in

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BLOOD?

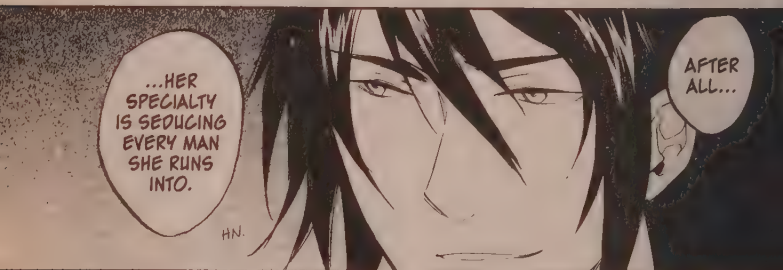
4...

YOU THINK SO?



THAT YOUNG WOMAN ISN'T AS PURE-HEARTED AS YOU THINK, ELLIOT.

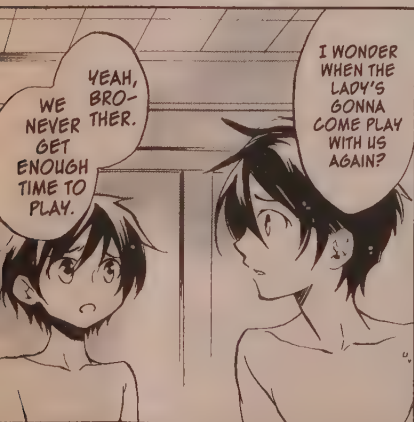
I WONDER



...HER SPECIALTY IS SEDUCING EVERY MAN SHE RUNS INTO.

HN.

AFTER ALL...

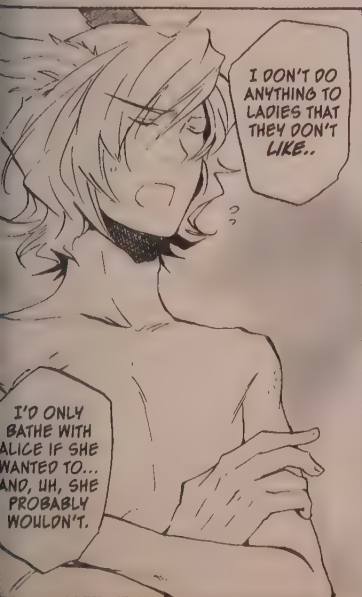
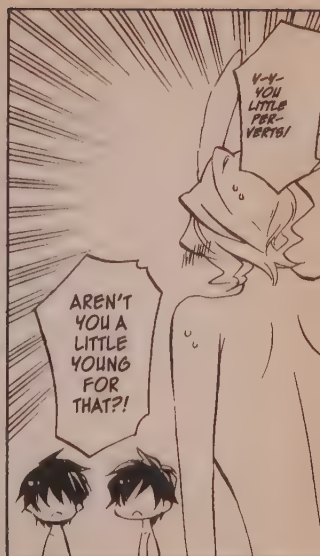
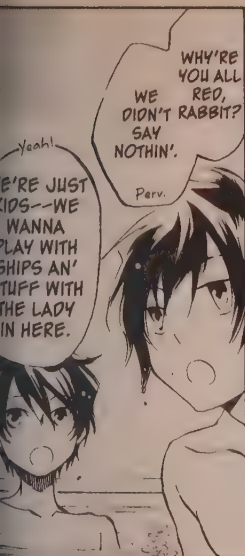


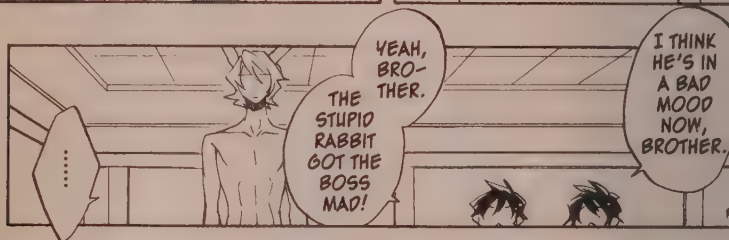
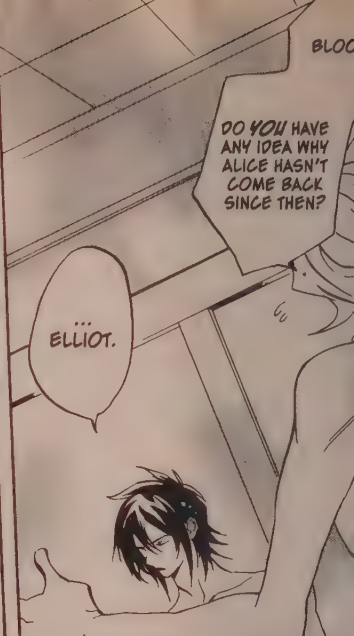
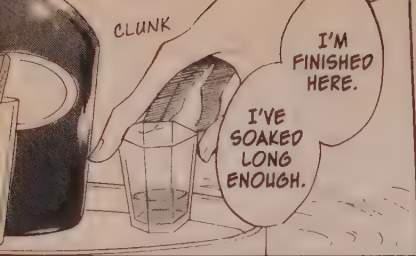
YEAH, WE BRO- NEVER THER. GET ENOUGH TIME TO PLAY.

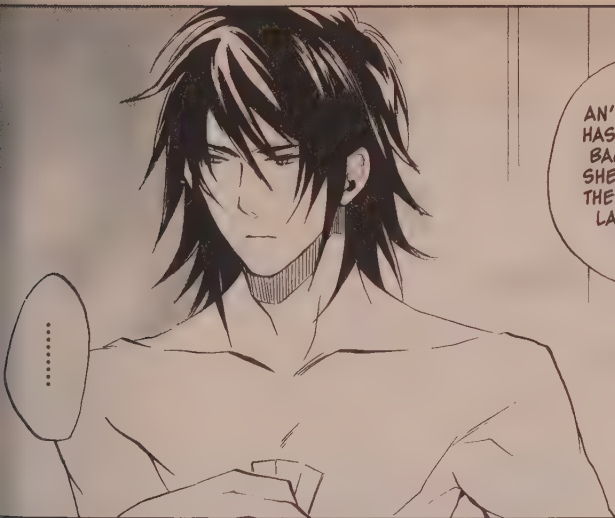
I WONDER WHEN THE LADY'S GONNA COME PLAY WITH US AGAIN?



...



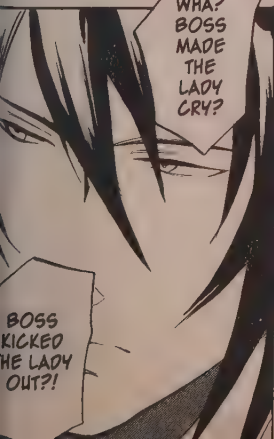




AN' THE LADY
HASN'T COME
BACK SINCE
SHE CAME TO
THE MANSION
LAST TIME.

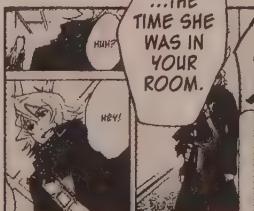


UM...



WHA?
BOSS
MADE
THE
LADY
CRY?

BOSS
KICKED
THE LADY
OUT?!



HUH?

HEY!

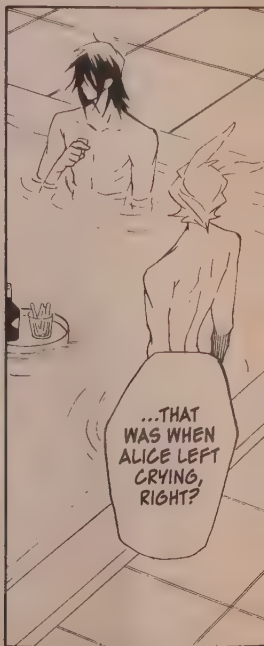
...THE
TIME SHE
WAS IN
YOUR
ROOM.



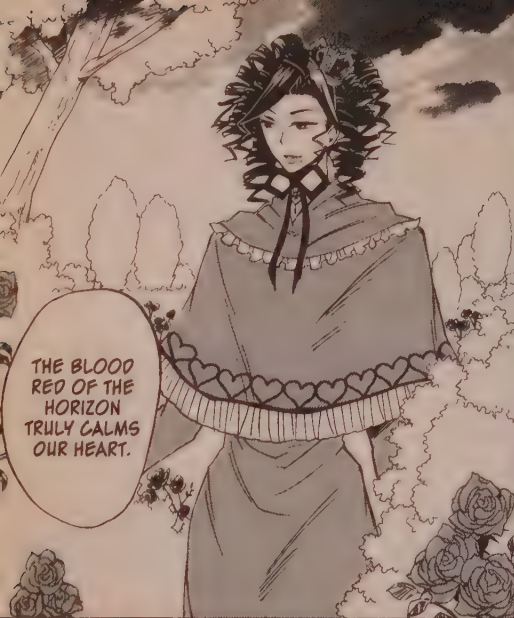
WHAT
HAPPENED
?



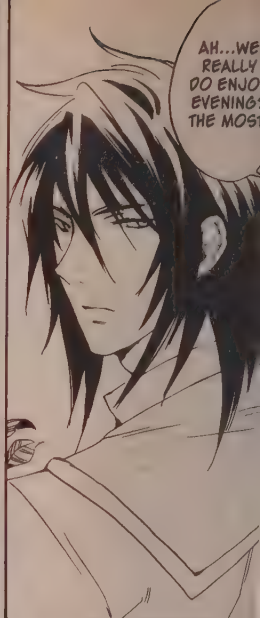
WHOA
...
UH...



...THAT
WAS WHEN
ALICE LEFT
CRYING,
RIGHT?



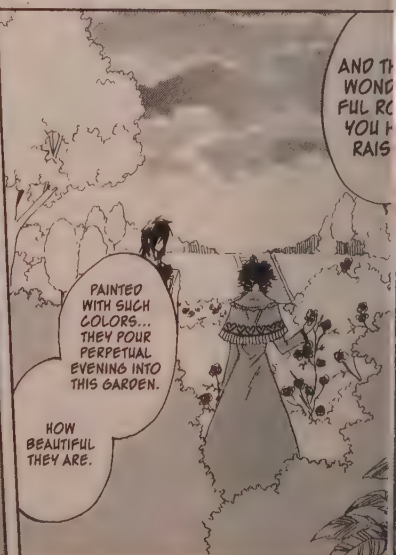
THE BLOOD
RED OF THE
HORIZON
TRULY CALMS
OUR HEART.



AH...WE
REALLY
DO ENJOY
EVENING.
THE MOST



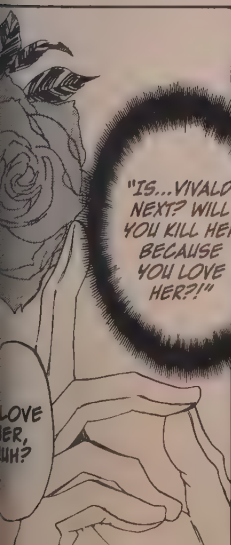
A GARDEN
MORE
BEAUTIFUL
THAN THIS
COULD NOT
POSSIBLY
EXIST.



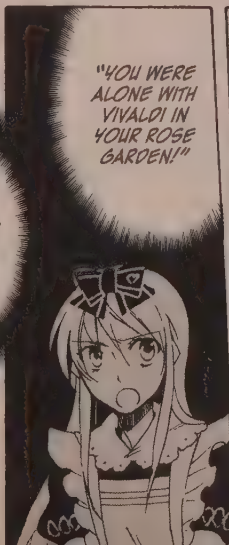
PAINTED
WITH SUCH
COLORS...
THEY POUR
PERPETUAL
EVENING INTO
THIS GARDEN.

HOW
BEAUTIFUL
THEY ARE.

AND THE
WOND
FUL RO
YOU H
RAIS



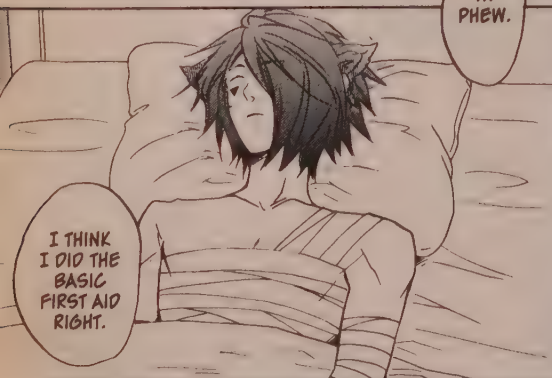
"IS...VIVALDI
NEXT? WILL
YOU KILL HER
BECAUSE
YOU LOVE
HER?!"



"YOU WERE
ALONE WITH
VIVALDI IN
YOUR ROSE
GARDEN!"

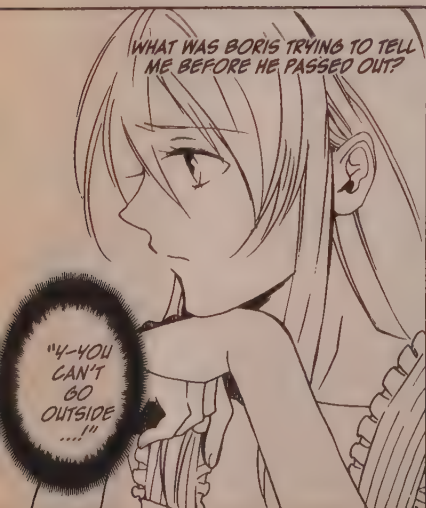


"I
SAW
YOU!"



I THINK
I DID THE
BASIC
FIRST AID
RIGHT.

...
PHEW.



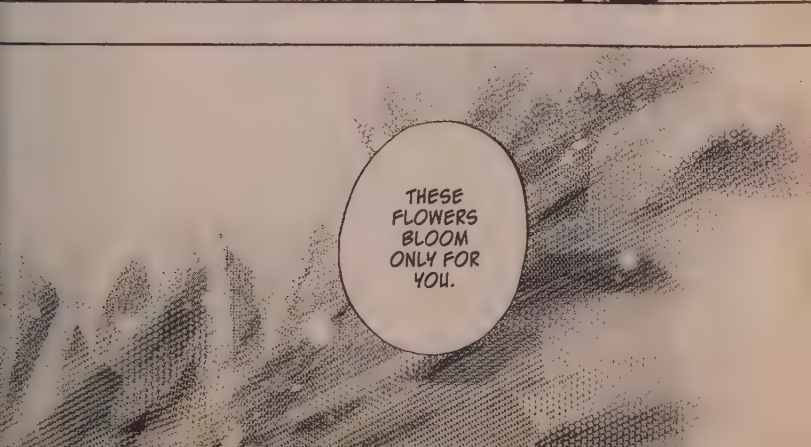
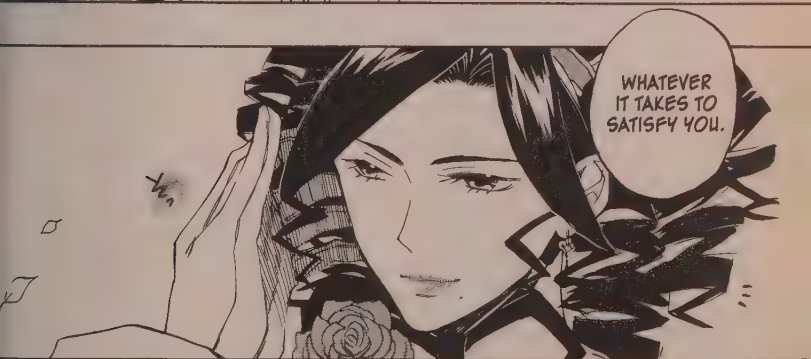
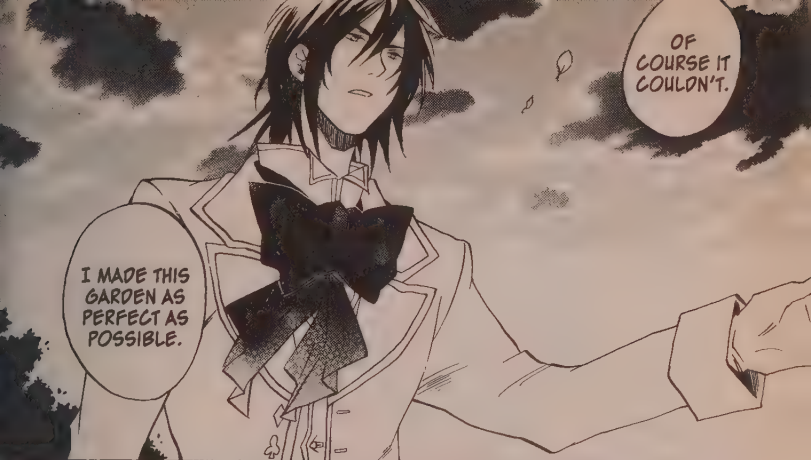
WHAT WAS BORIS TRYING TO TELL
ME BEFORE HE PASSED OUT?

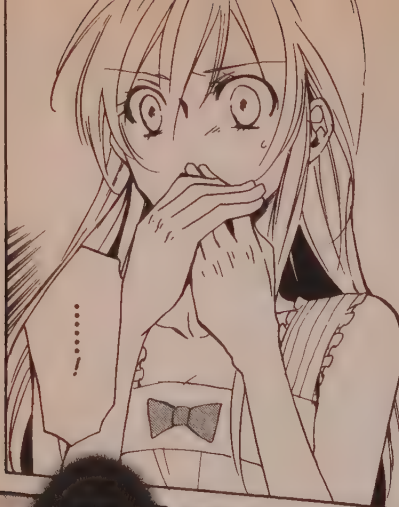
"Y-YOU
CAN'T
GO
OUTSIDE
...!"



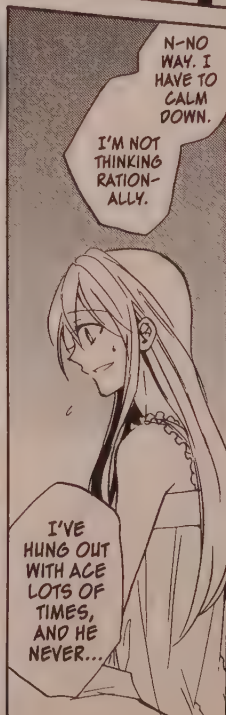
WHAT BAD
LUCK...
JULIUS
LEFT RIGHT
BEFORE
I WENT
TO BED.

I HOPE
HE GETS
BACK
SOON.





BUT
THERE
HAS BEEN
SOMETHING
WEIRD ABOUT
HIM LATELY.



N-NO
WAY. I
HAVE TO
CALM
DOWN.

I'M NOT
THINKING
RATION-
ALLY.

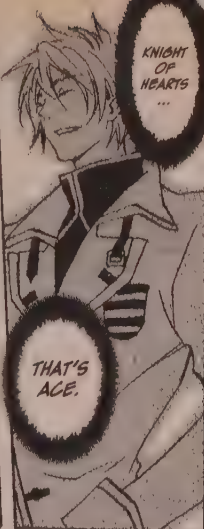
I'VE
HUNG OUT
WITH ACE
LOTS OF
TIMES,
AND HE
NEVER...





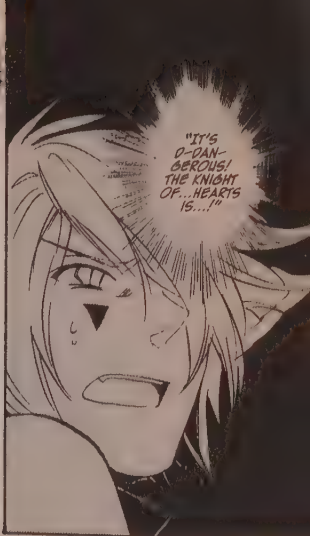
DID HE
MEAN
AGE IS
DANGER-
OUS?

WAIT.

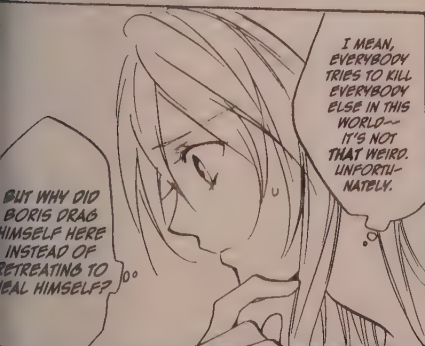


KNIGHT
OF
HEARTS
...

THAT'S
AGE.

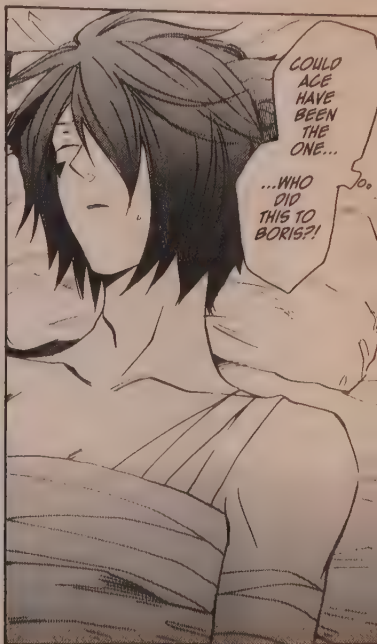


"IT'S
D-DAN-
GEROUS!
THE KNIGHT
OF...HEARTS
IS..."



BUT WHY DID
BORIS DRAG
HIMSELF HERE
INSTEAD OF
RETRACING TO
HEAL HIMSELF?

I MEAN,
EVERYBODY
TRIES TO KILL
EVERYBODY
ELSE IN THIS
WORLD--
IT'S NOT
THAT WEIRD.
UNFORTU-
NATELY.



COULD
AGE
HAVE
BEEN
THE
ONE...

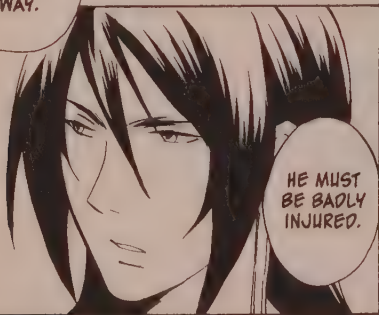
...WHO
DID
THIS TO
BORIS?!

...IT SOUNDED LIKE
HE WAS WARNING ME.

ABOUT SOMETHING
DANGEROUS.



I SAW A
PUDDLE OF
BLOOD AND
HIS FUR IN
THE HALL-
WAY.

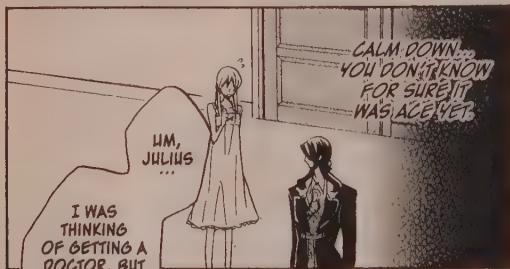


HE MUST
BE BADLY
INJURED.



ER...
YEAH.

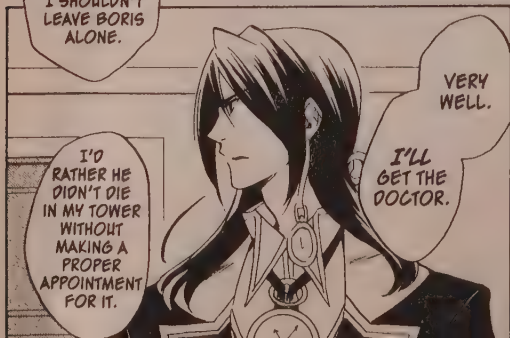
DO
HAY
DO
THE
IN
B



UM,
JULIUS
...

I WAS
THINKING
OF GETTING A
DOCTOR, BUT
I SHOULDN'T
LEAVE BORIS
ALONE.

CALM DOWN...
YOU DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE IT
WAS ACE YET



I'D
RATHER HE
DIDN'T DIE
IN MY TOWER
WITHOUT
MAKING A
PROPER
APPOINTMENT
FOR IT.

VERY
WELL.

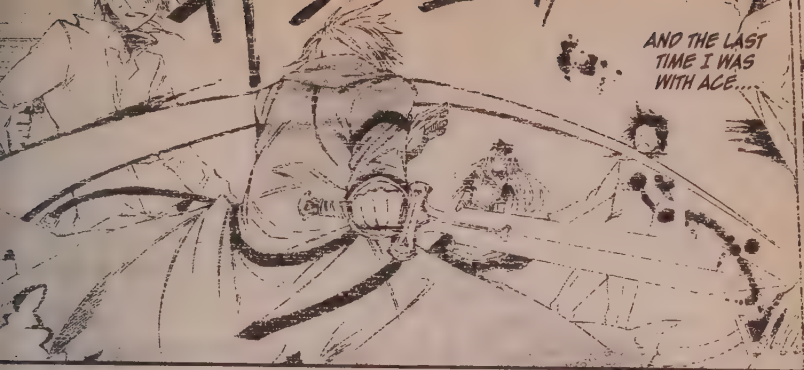
I'LL
GET THE
DOCTOR.



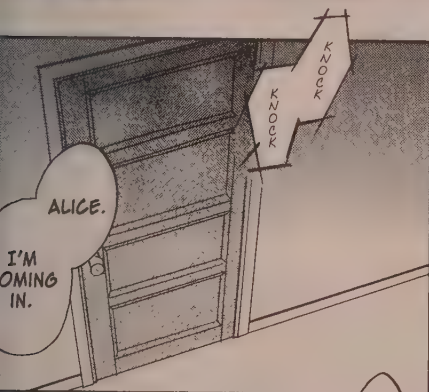
HE
EXA
HEL
Y
HE
MUST HAVE
BEEN GOING
AGAINST SOME-
ONE VERY
SKILLED.

HE
EXA
HEL
Y

H
#



AND THE LAST
TIME I WAS
WITH ACE...



ALICE.

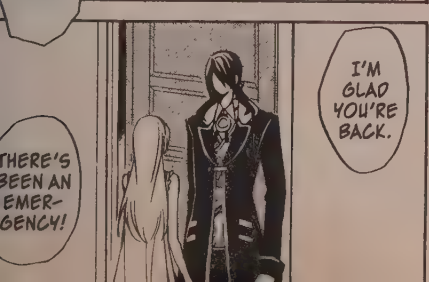
I'M
COMING
IN.



HUH?!

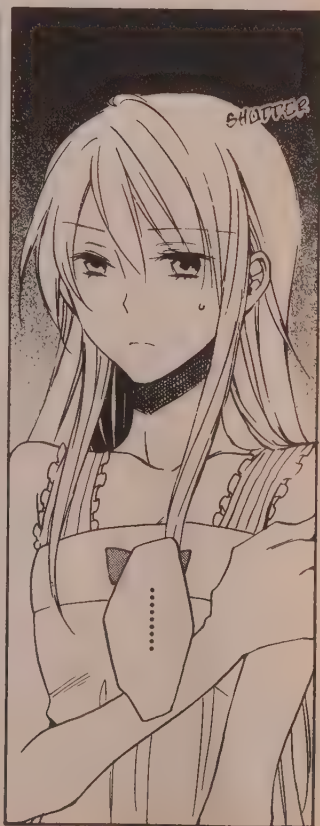
OH!

H-HI,
JULIUS.

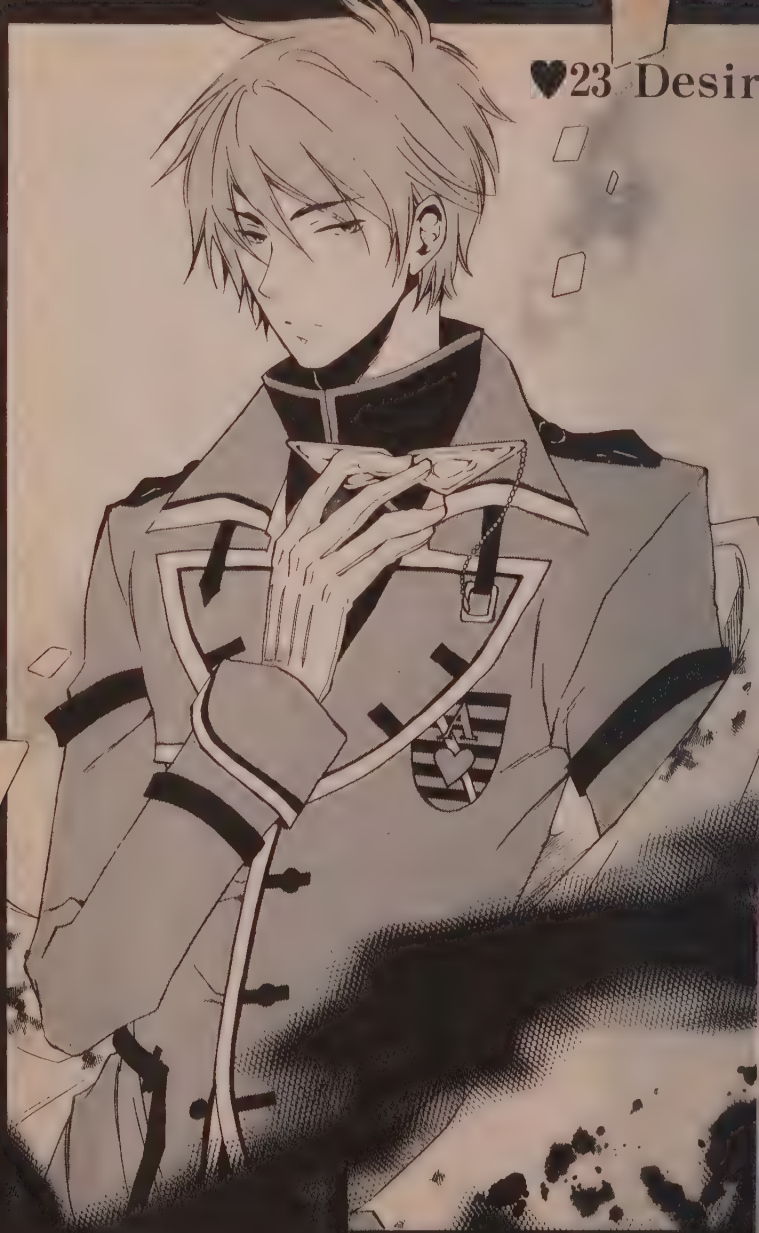


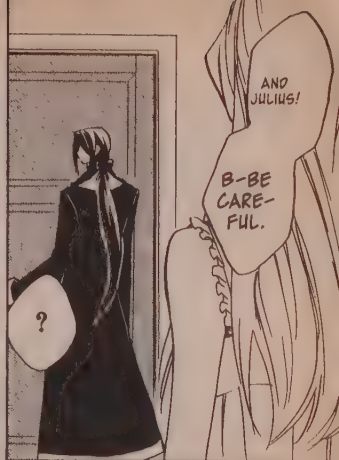
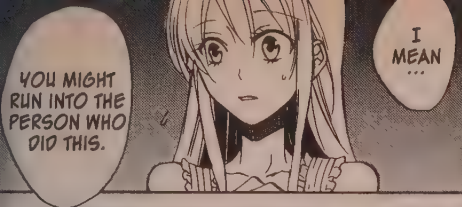
THERE'S
BEEN AN
EMERGENCY!

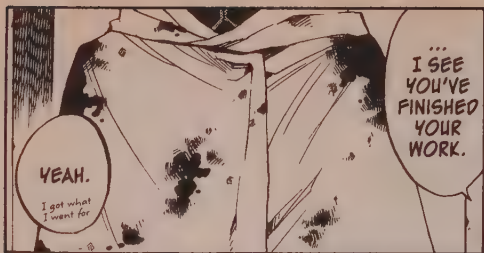
I'M
GLAD
YOU'RE
BACK.



SHATTER



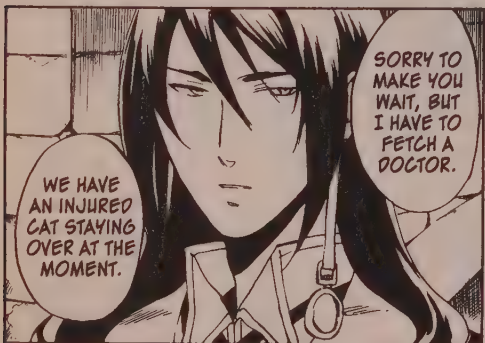




YEAH.

I got what
I want for

...
I SEE
YOU'VE
FINISHED
YOUR
WORK.



WE HAVE
AN INJURED
CAT STAYING
OVER AT THE
MOMENT.

SORRY TO
MAKE YOU
WAIT, BUT
I HAVE TO
FETCH A
DOCTOR.

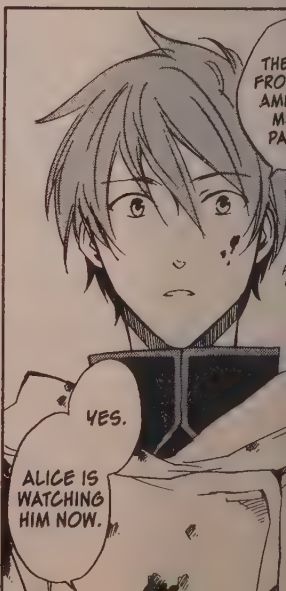


YES.



I'LL
BE BACK
SOON
...

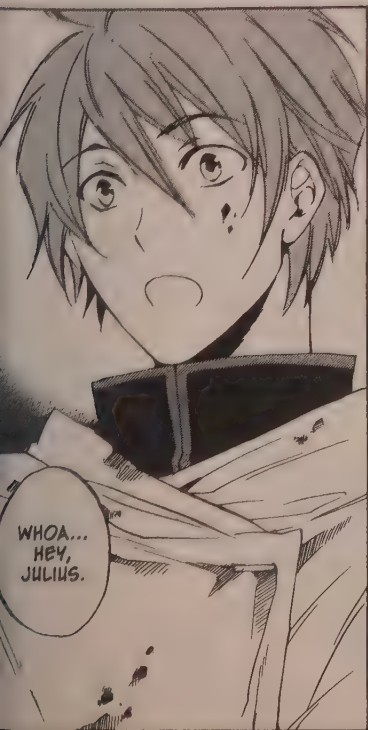
...
SO
LET
YOUR-
SELF
IN.



THE
FRO
AM
M
PA

YES.

ALICE IS
WATCHING
HIM NOW.



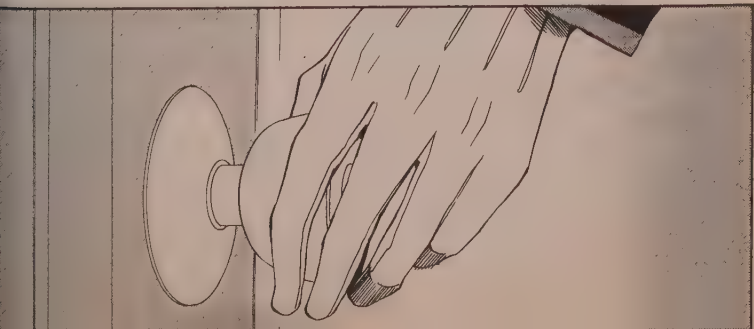
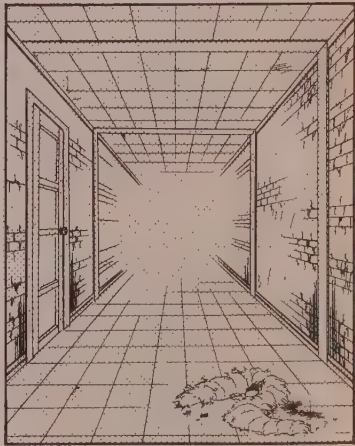


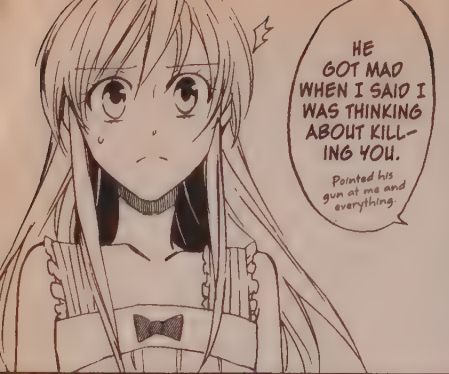
ACE...

KA-CHAK

FLINCH

!



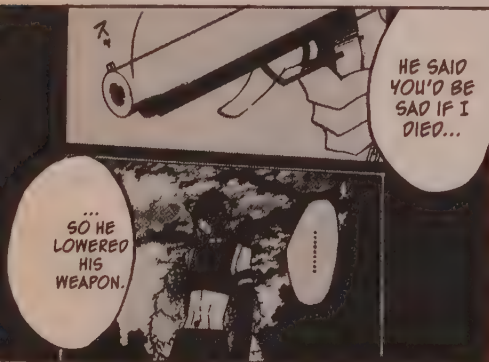


HE
GOT MAD
WHEN I SAID I
WAS THINKING
ABOUT KILL-
ING YOU.

*Pointed his
gun at me and
everything.*

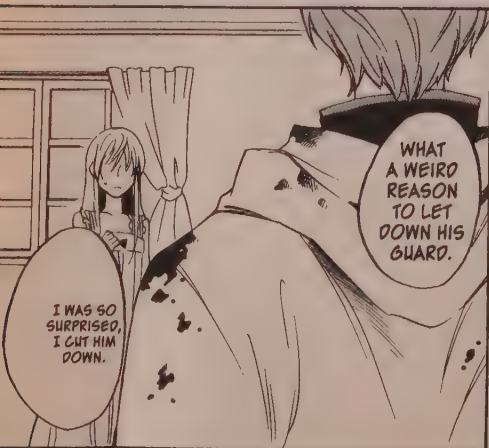


YUP.



HE SAID
YOU'D BE
SAD IF I
DIED...

...
SO HE
LOWERED
HIS
WEAPON.

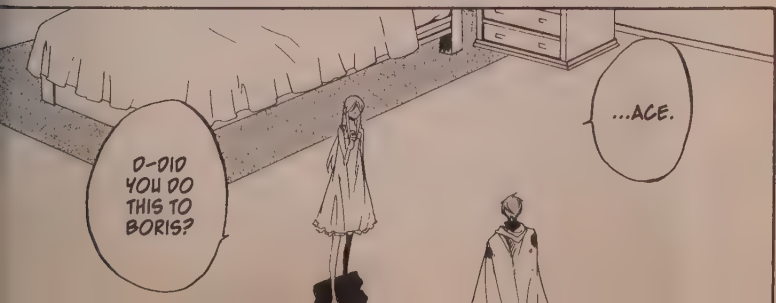
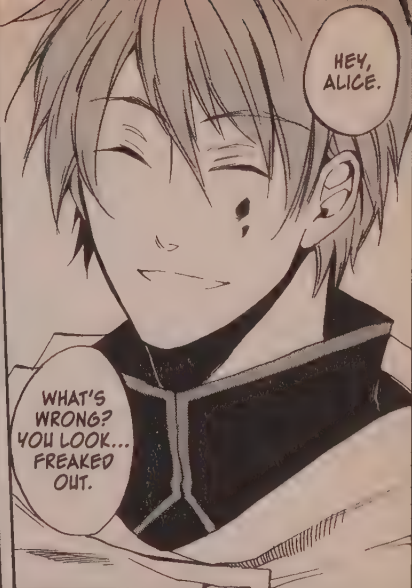
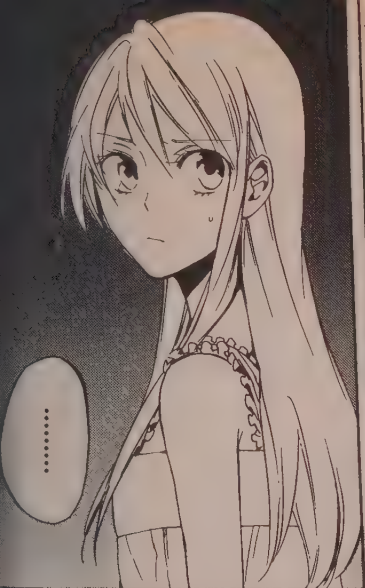


I WAS SO
SURPRISED,
I CUT HIM
DOWN.

WHAT
A WEIRD
REASON
TO LET
DOWN HIS
GUARD.



BUT
I STILL
DON'T GET
WHAT HE
SAID AFTER
THAT.





ACE...



ALICE.

DO YOU
THINK I CAN
CHANGE LIKE
EVERYBODY
ELSE?

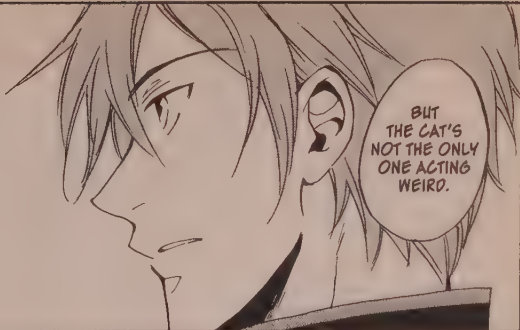


DO...
DO YOU
WANT TO
CHANGE?



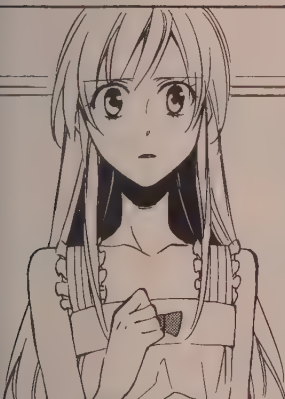
BU
HAVE
CHAN

AND NOW I
FEEL MORE
LOST THAN
EVER.



EVERY-
ONE WHO'S
TALKED TO YOU
IS DIFFERENT
NOW, SOME-
HOW.

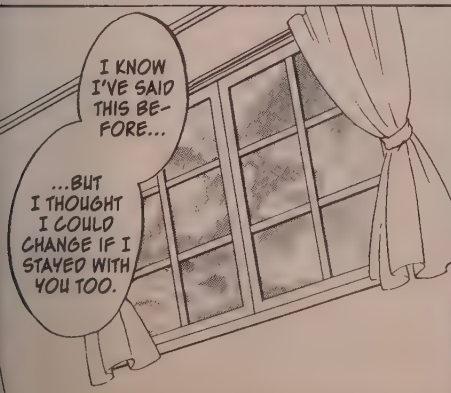
BUT
THE CAT'S
NOT THE ONLY
ONE ACTING
WEIRD.



SINCE YOU
SHOWED UP,
THEY'VE ALL
CHANGED.

LIKE
PETER
...

...
AND THE
HATTER.



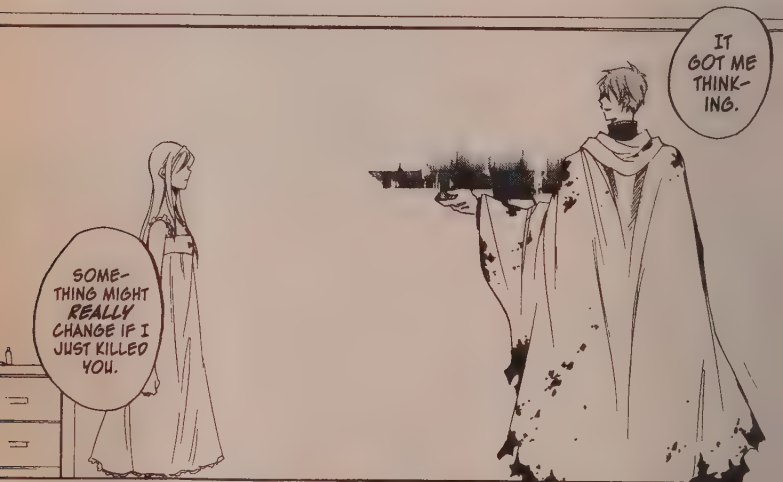
I KNOW
I'VE SAID
THIS BE-
FORE...

...BUT
I THOUGHT
I COULD
CHANGE IF I
STAYED WITH
YOU TOO.

AND
EVEN
JULIUS.

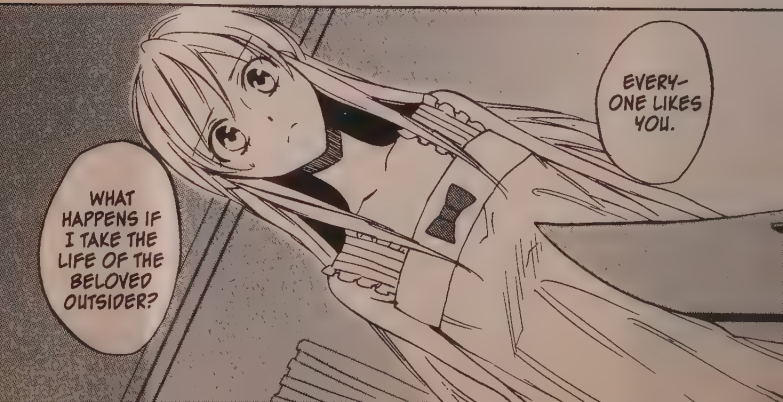


BUT...



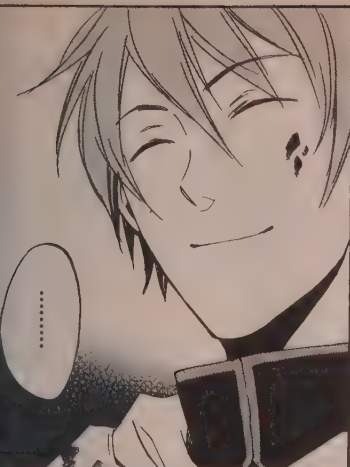
IT
GOT ME
THINK-
ING.

SOME-
THING MIGHT
REALLY
CHANGE IF I
JUST KILLED
YOU.



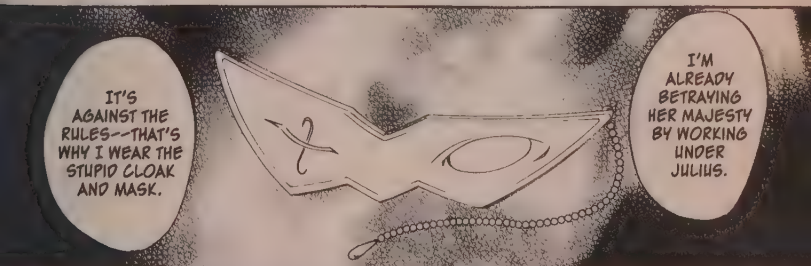
EVERY-
ONE LIKES
YOU.

WHAT
HAPPENS IF
I TAKE THE
LIFE OF THE
BELOVED
OUTSIDER?



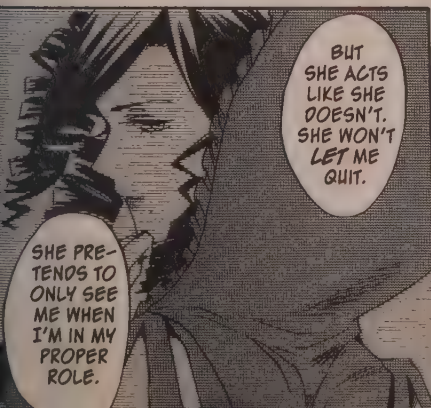
VIVALDI
TOLD ME
SOME-
THING.

YOU
REALLY
WANT TO
QUIT WHAT-
EVER YOUR
ROLE IS,
DON'T
YOU?



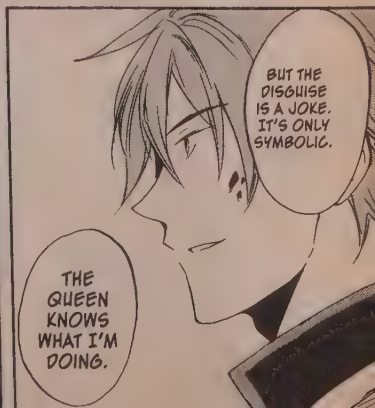
IT'S
AGAINST THE
RULES--THAT'S
WHY I WEAR THE
STUPID CLOAK
AND MASK.

I'M
ALREADY
BETRAYING
HER MAJESTY
BY WORKING
UNDER
JULIUS.



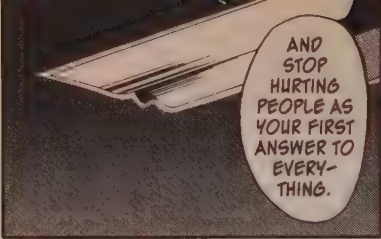
BUT
SHE ACTS
LIKE SHE
DOESN'T.
SHE WON'T
LET ME
QUIT.

SHE PRE-
TENDS TO
ONLY SEE
ME WHEN
I'M IN MY
PROPER
ROLE.

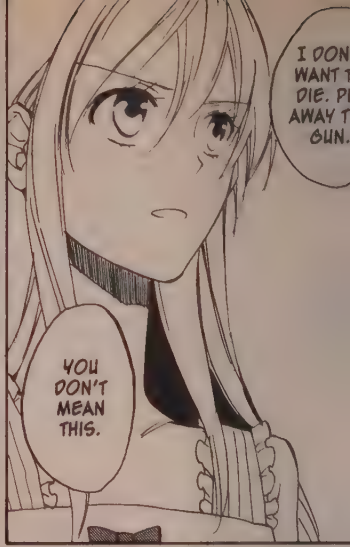


BUT THE
DISGUISE
IS A JOKE.
IT'S ONLY
SYMBOLIC.

THE
QUEEN
KNOWS
WHAT I'M
DOING.



AND
STOP
HURTING
PEOPLE AS
YOUR FIRST
ANSWER TO
EVERY-
THING.



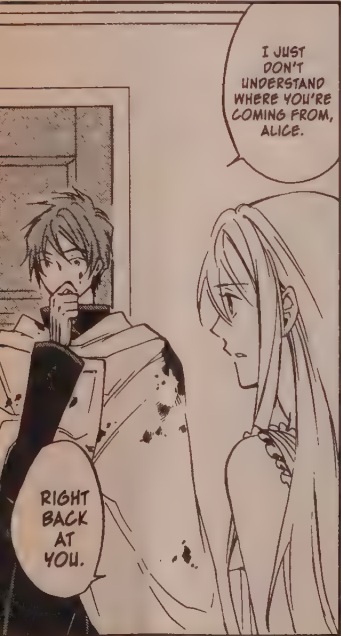
I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE. PLEASE
AWAY FROM
GUNS.

YOU
DON'T
MEAN
THIS.



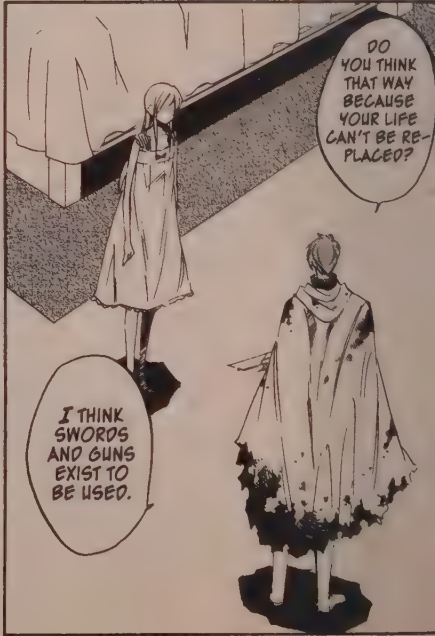
HUNH.

.....



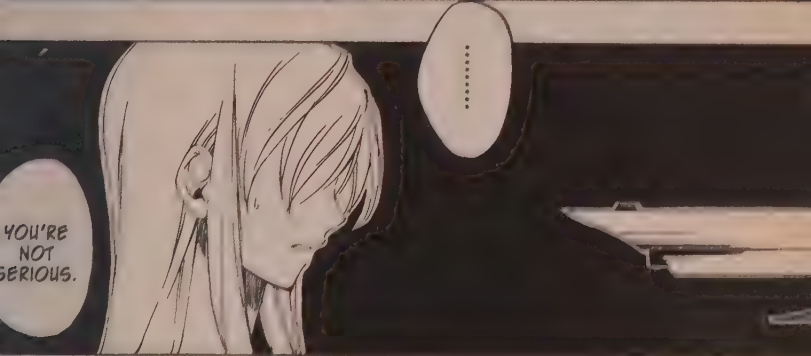
I JUST
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHERE YOU'RE
COMING FROM,
ALICE.

RIGHT
BACK
AT
YOU.



DO
YOU THINK
THAT WAY
BECAUSE
YOUR LIFE
CAN'T BE RE-
PLACED?

I THINK
SWORDS
AND GUNS
EXIST TO
BE USED.



...YOU
WOULD'VE
KILLED ME
THE MINUTE
YOU WALKED
IN HERE,
ACE.

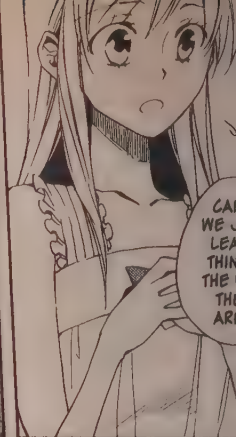
IF YOU
WERE
SERIOUS
...

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
NOT.

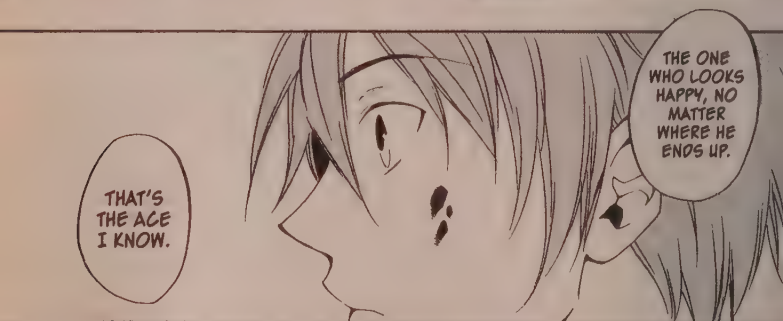


TO
ME...

...YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
MAKES THE
MOST OF
GETTING
LOST.

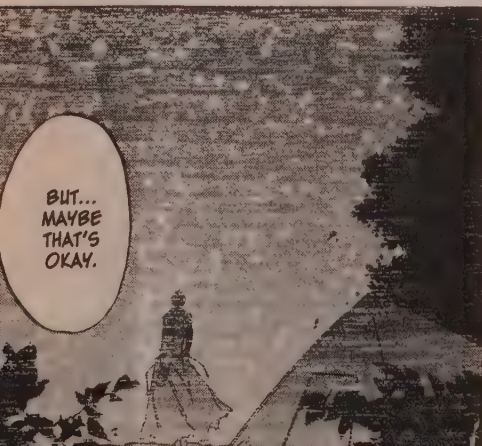


CAN
WE
LEA
THIN
THE
THE
ARE

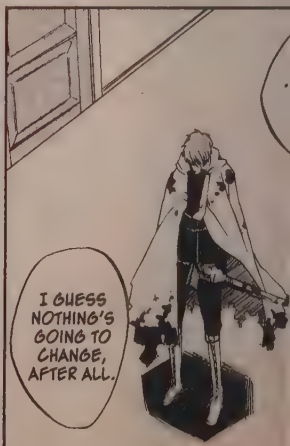


THAT'S
THE AGE
I KNOW.

THE ONE
WHO LOOKS
HAPPY, NO
MATTER
WHERE HE
ENDS UP.



BUT...
MAYBE
THAT'S
OKAY.



I GUESS
NOTHING'S
GOING TO
CHANGE,
AFTER ALL.

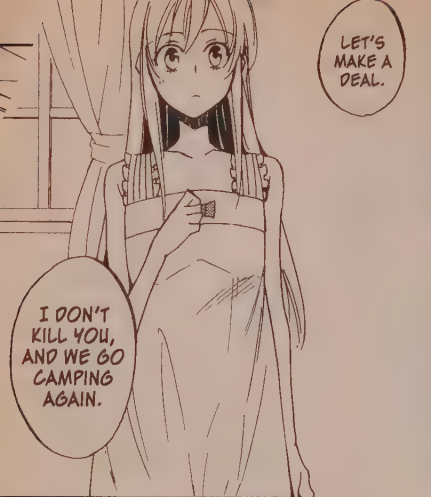
I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE WAY YOU
THINK, ACE.

I DON'T
GET THE
RULES OF
THIS WORLD
AND THE
DISREGARD
FOR LIFE
HERE.

...I
GUESS
SO.

SO
NEITHER
OF US
REALLY
UNDER-
STANDS.

ACE?



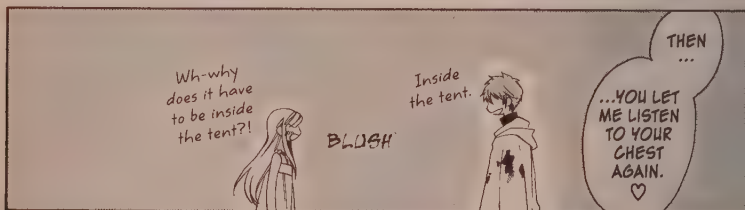
LET'S
MAKE A
DEAL.

I DON'T
KILL YOU,
AND WE GO
CAMPING
AGAIN.



I'D
RATHER
YOU
LIVED

...SO
I COULD
HEAR IT
AGAIN.



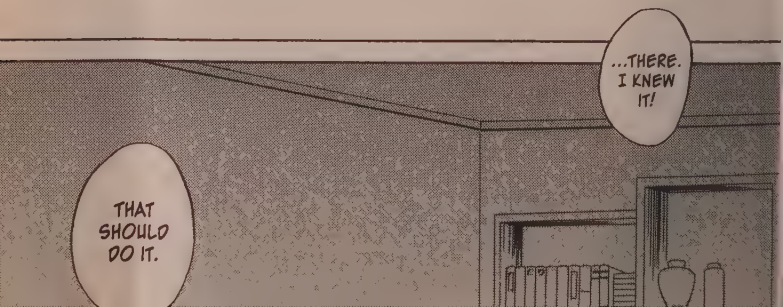
Wh-why
does it have
to be inside
the tent?!

BLUSH

Inside
the tent.

THEN
...

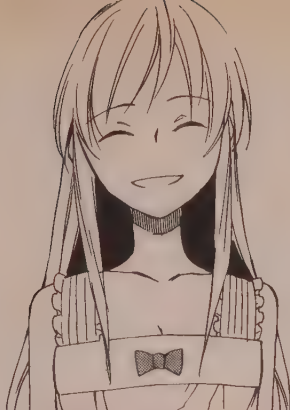
...YOU LET
ME LISTEN
TO YOUR
CHEST
AGAIN.
♡



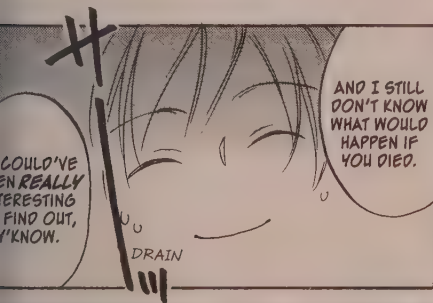
THAT
SHOULD
DO IT.

...THERE.
I KNEW
IT!

...HUH?



I GUESS
I DON'T
HAVE TO
KILL YOU,
ALICE.



COULD'VE
BEEN REALLY
INTERESTING
TO FIND OUT,
I'KNOW.

AND I STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF
YOU DIED.

DRAIN



...I
COULDN'T
LISTEN TO
THE SOUND
OF YOUR
HEART ANY-
MORE.

BUT
IF I
KILLED
YOU...



BY
THE WAY--
I WASN'T
HESITATING.

I just wanted
to chat first.

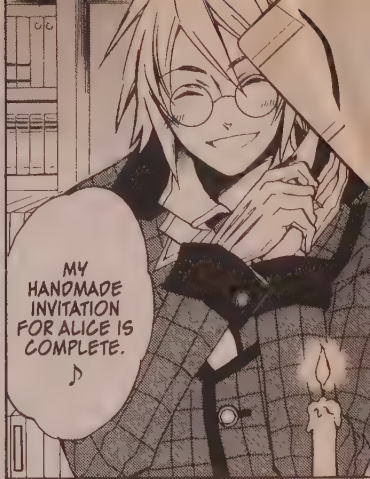
♥24 Letter of Invitation





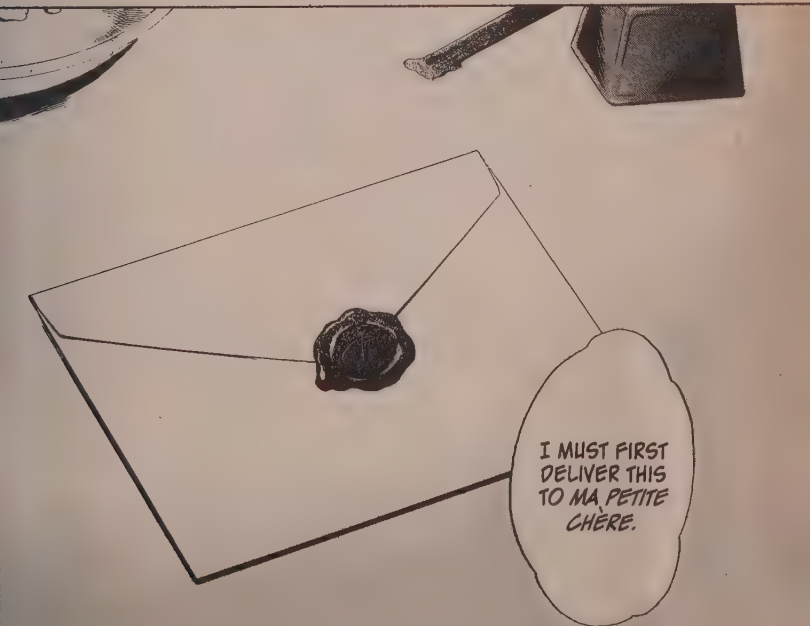
THERE
ARE STILL
THINGS TO
PREPARE...

...BUT
I SIMPLY
CANNOT
CARE!

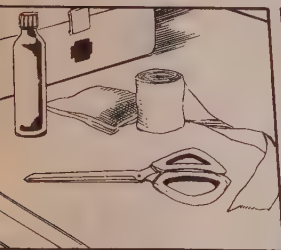
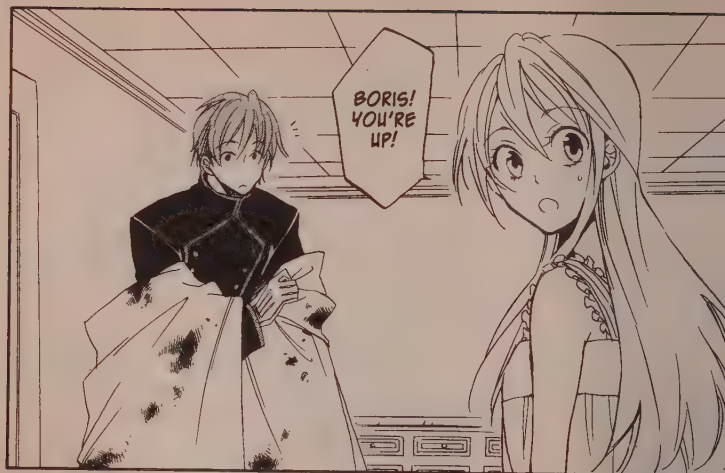


MY
HANDMADE
INVITATION
FOR ALICE IS
COMPLETE.

♪



I MUST FIRST
DELIVER THIS
TO MA PETITE
CHERE.



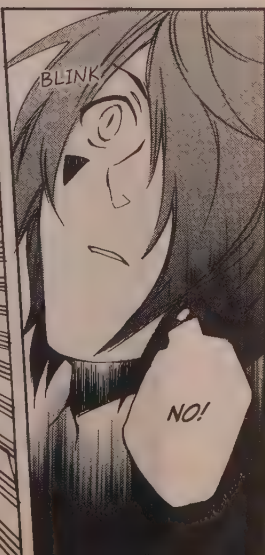
...JULIUS
SAID HE'D
BE BACK
SOON.

BUT THE
CASTLE'S
BEEN PRETTY
BUSY LATELY--
I SHOULD
PROBABLY
GO.

TELL JULIUS
ABOUT THE
CLOCKS I
BROUGHT,
WILL YOU?

...SURE,
ACE.

ACE?



BLINK

NO!



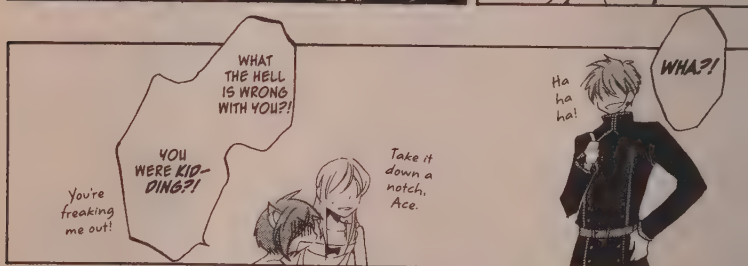
RIGHT?

TAKE
IT EASY,
PUSSY
CAT.

YEAH.



ACE
SAID HE
WOULDN'T
HURT ME.



WHAT
THE HELL
IS WRONG
WITH YOU?!

YOU
WERE KID-
DING?!

You're
freaking
me out!

Take it
down a
notch,
Ace.

Ha
ha
ha!

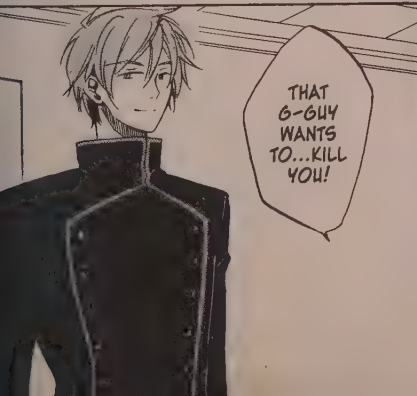
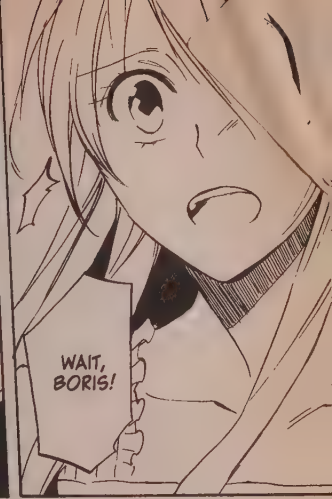
WHA?!

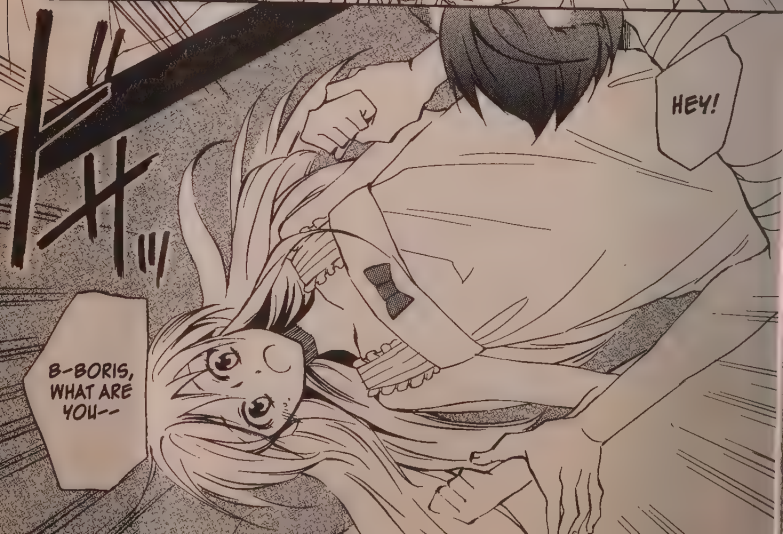
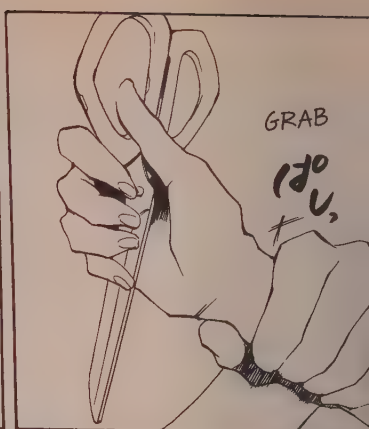


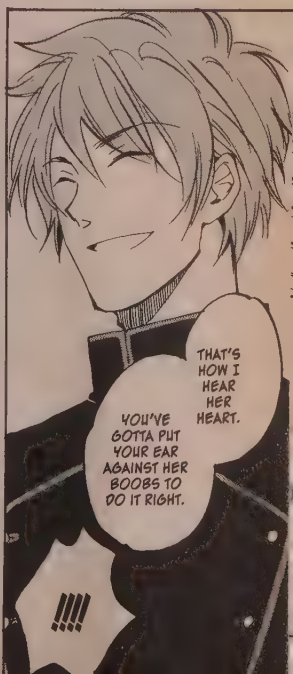
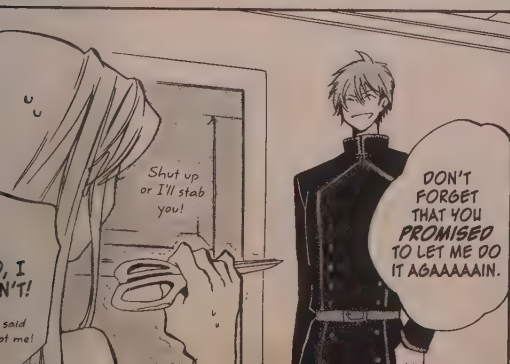
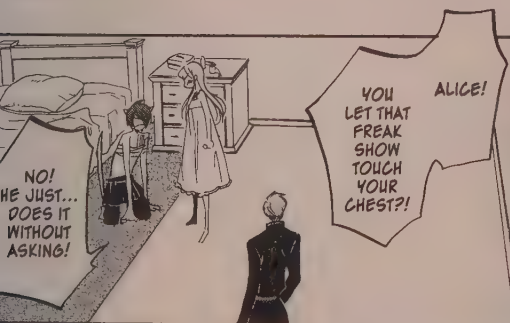
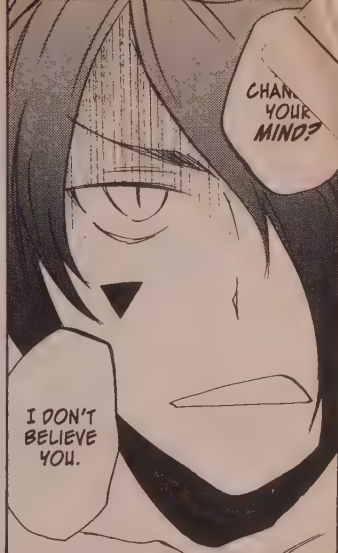
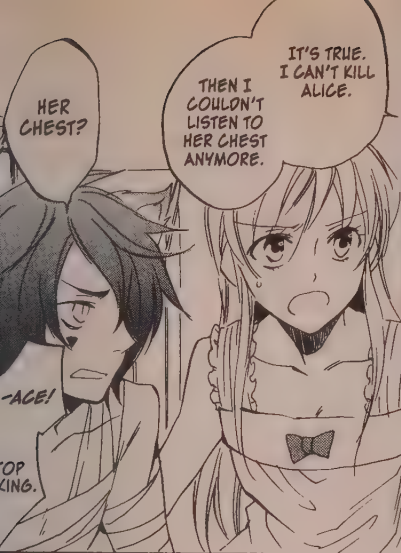
BUT I
CHANGED
MY MIND
A MINUTE
AGO.

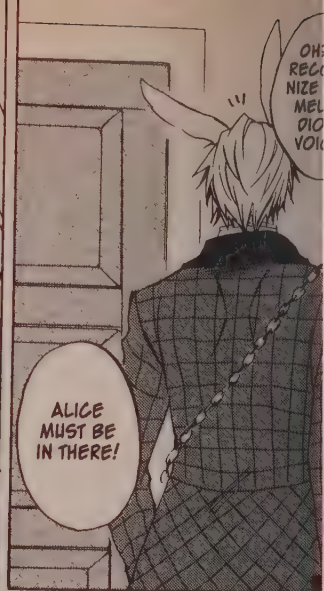
I WAS
TOTALLY
SERIOUS.

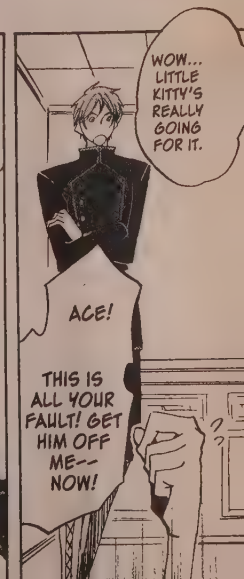
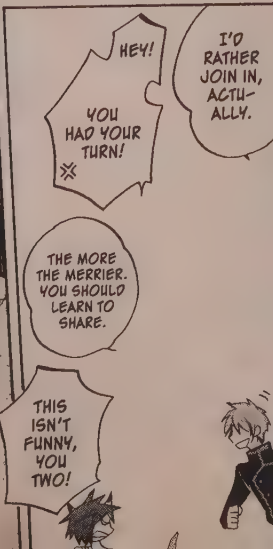
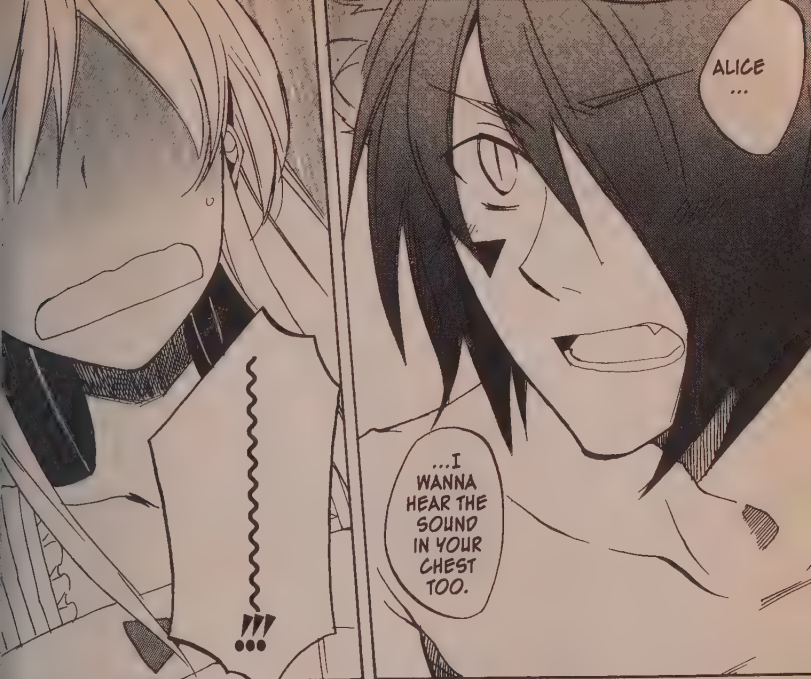
I WASN'T
KIDDING.
NOT AT
THE TIME.

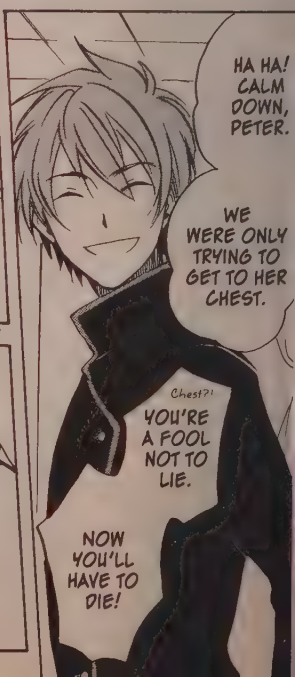
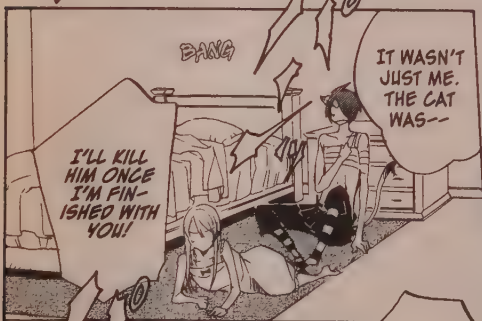


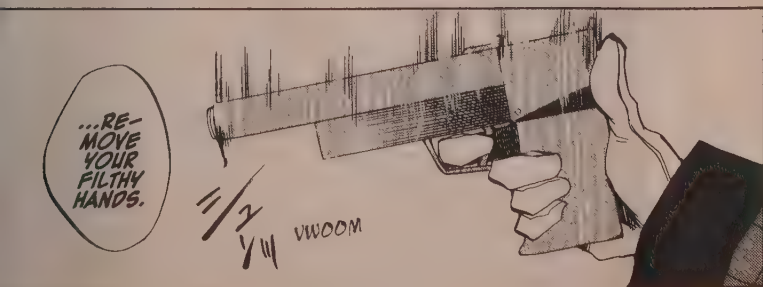
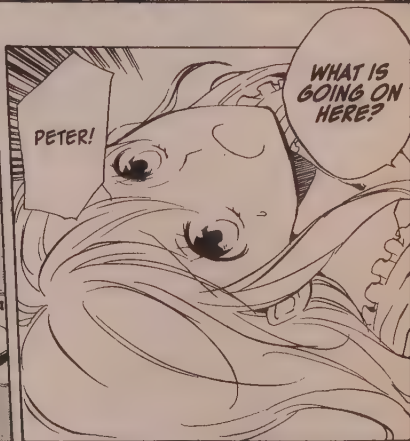
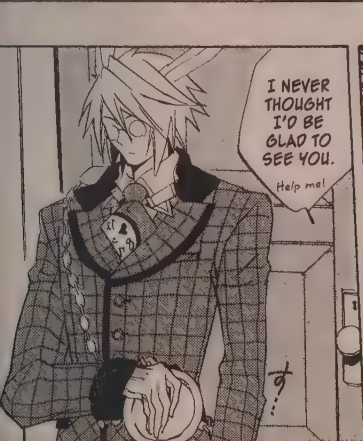
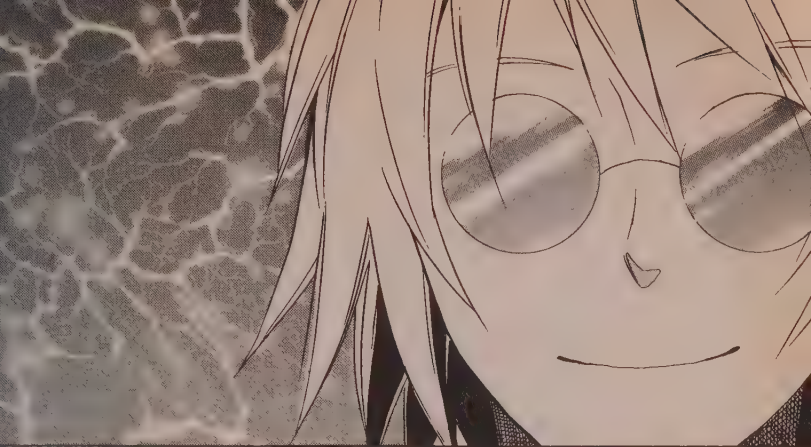


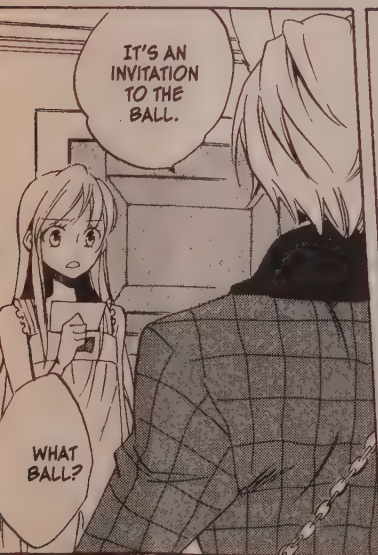
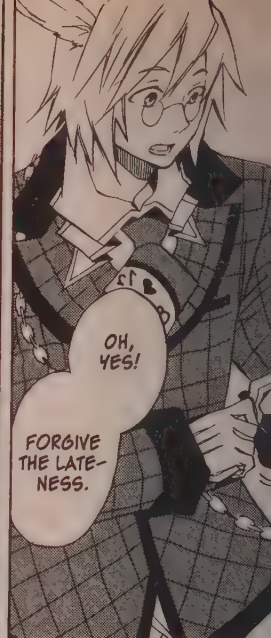


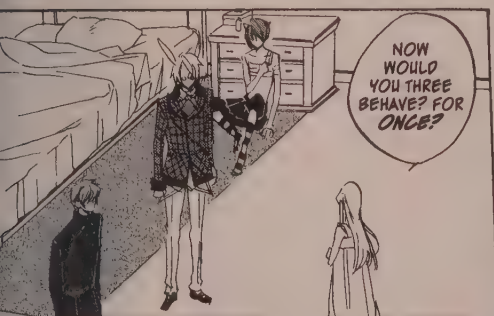
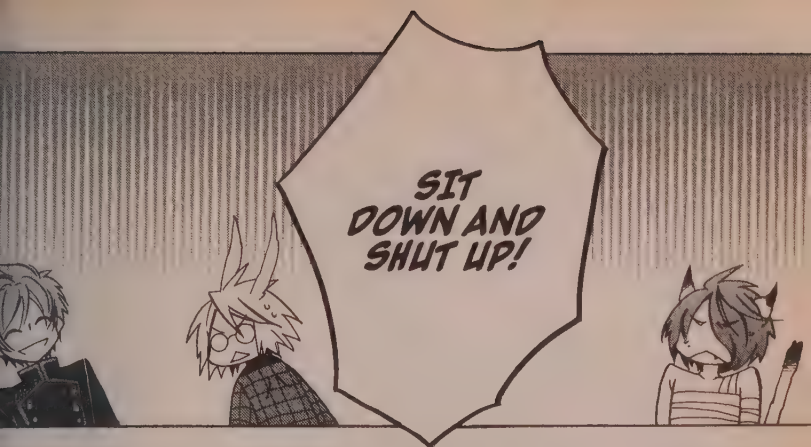












...BUT
I MUST
DISA-
GREE!

RE, A

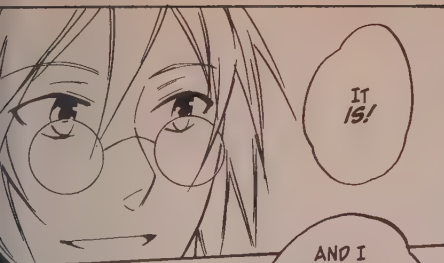
IF WE SKIP IT,
HER MAJESTY
IS GOING TO
FLIP HER LID.

*You know how
she hates it when
we're late*

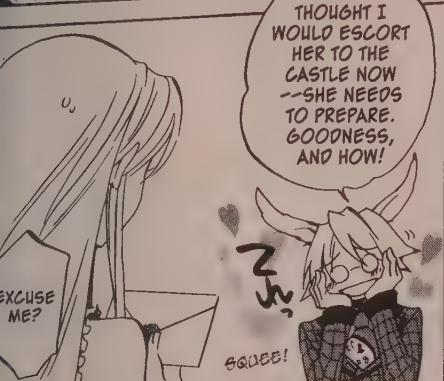
You know how
she hates it when
we're late

MY PLACE IS WITH ALICE! I CANNOT LEAVE HER SIDE!

A black and white manga-style illustration. A young woman with long, light-colored hair and large, expressive eyes is shown from the chest up. She has a slightly surprised or concerned expression. She is holding a small, fluffy, round creature with large, upright ears. The creature has its eyes closed and appears to be sleeping or resting. It is wearing a dark-colored shirt with a light-colored diamond or checkered pattern. The woman is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved top. On the right side of her chest, there is Japanese text 'ほろ' (Horo) above the number '131', and below that, the word 'POME' is printed in a stylized font. The background is simple, with some vertical lines suggesting an indoor setting.



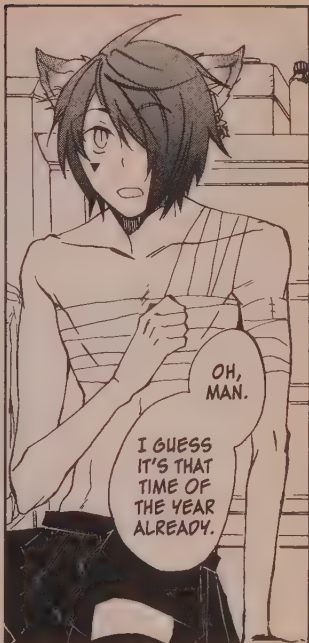
IT
IS!



EXCUSE
ME?

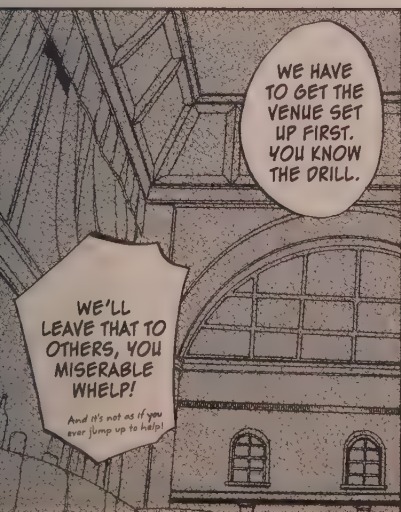
AND I
THOUGHT I
WOULD ESCORT
HER TO THE
CASTLE NOW
--SHE NEEDS
TO PREPARE.
GOODNESS,
AND HOW!

SQUEE!



OH,
MAN.

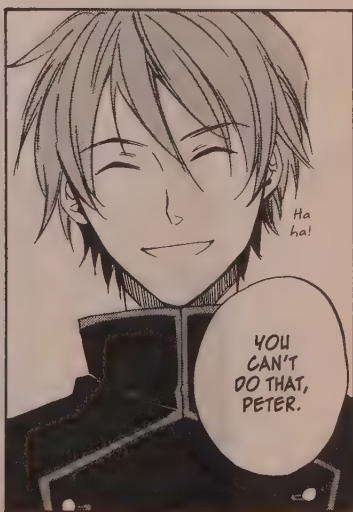
I GUESS
IT'S THAT
TIME OF
THE YEAR
ALREADY.



WE HAVE
TO GET THE
VENUE SET
UP FIRST.
YOU KNOW
THE DRILL.

WE'LL
LEAVE THAT TO
OTHERS, YOU
MISERABLE
WHELP!

And it's not as if you
ever jump up to help!



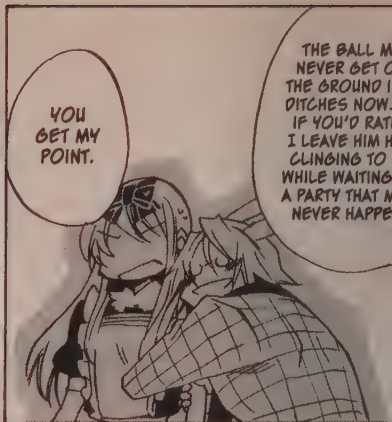
Ha
ha!

YOU
CAN'T
DO THAT,
PETER.



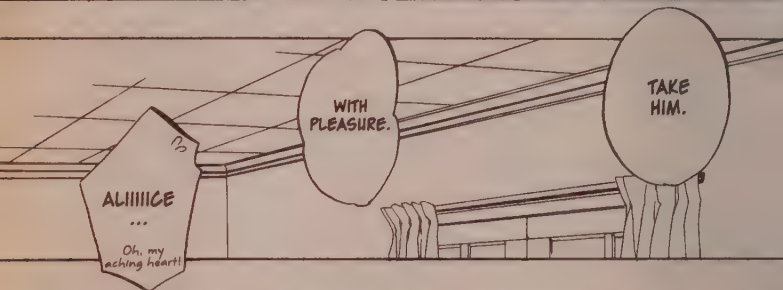
FINE.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



YOU
GET MY
POINT.

THE BALL M
NEVER GET C
THE GROUND I
DITCHES NOW.
IF YOU'D RAT
I LEAVE HIM H
CLINGING TO
WHILE WAITING
A PARTY THAT N
NEVER HAPPE

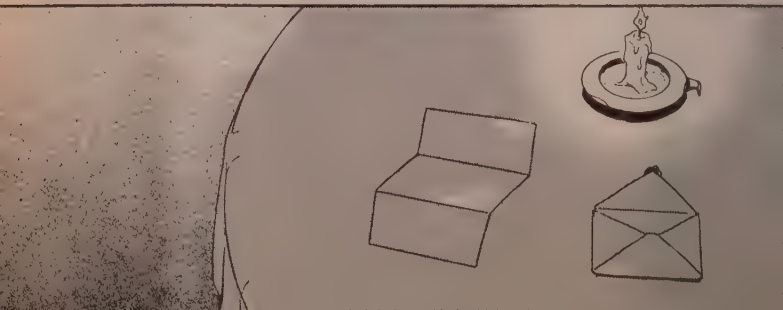
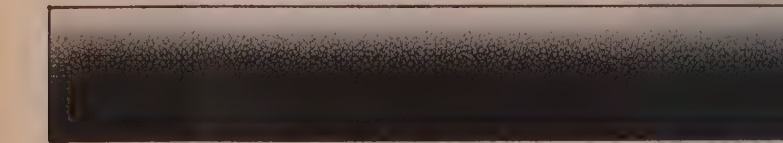


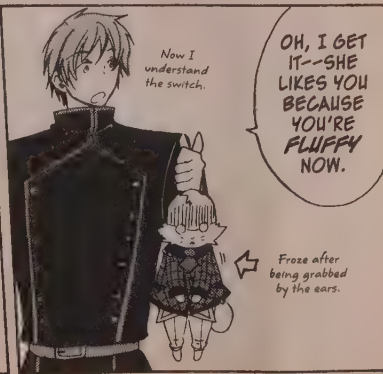
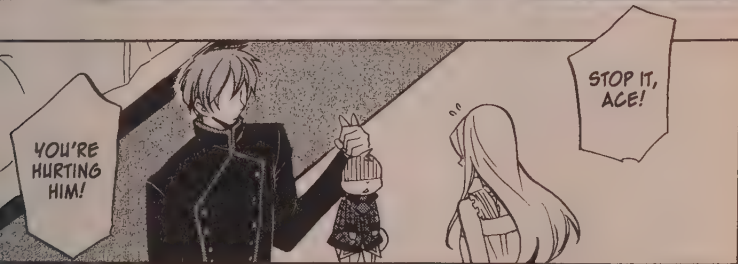
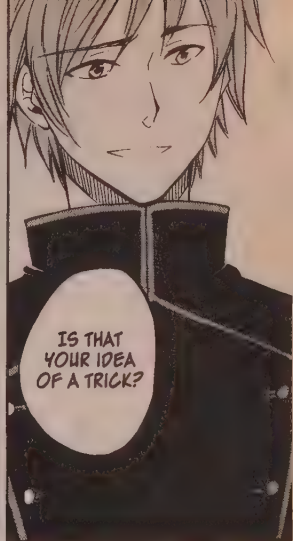
ALIIIIICE

Oh, my
aching heart!

WITH
PLEASURE.

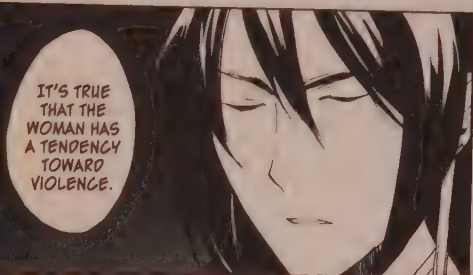
TAKE
HIM.



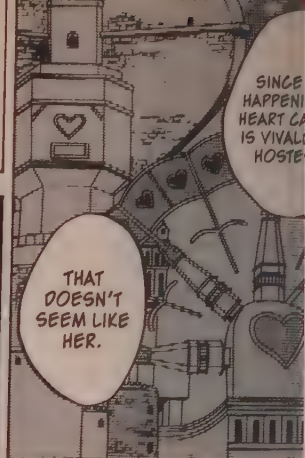




IS THIS
PART OF HER
FETISH FOR
CUTE, FRILLY
THINGS?



IT'S TRUE
THAT THE
WOMAN HAS
A TENDENCY
TOWARD
VIOLENCE.



SINCE
HAPPENING
HEART CASTLE
IS VIVALDI
HOSTED

THAT
DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
HER.



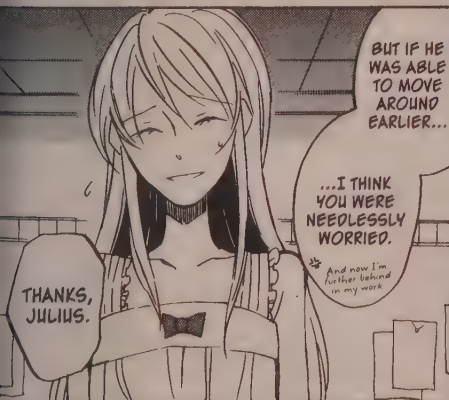
BUT AS
THE CASTLE
PROPRIETOR,
IT'S PART OF
HER ROLE TO
ENTERTAIN
FROM TIME
TO TIME.

IT'S ONLY
A BALL *THIS* TIME.
SHE MUST GATHER
INHABITANTS AND
ENTERTAIN THEM
PERIODICALLY--
THE SPECIFIC
FUNCTION
MAY VARY.

IT'S
SIMPLY
ONE
OF THE
RULES.



...THE
FELINE IS
OUT OF
DANGER
NOW.

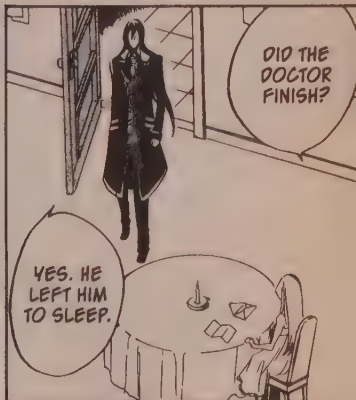


THANKS,
JULIUS.

BUT IF HE
WAS ABLE
TO MOVE
AROUND
EARLIER...

...I THINK
YOU WERE
NEEDLESSLY
WORRIED.

And now I'm
further behind
in my work

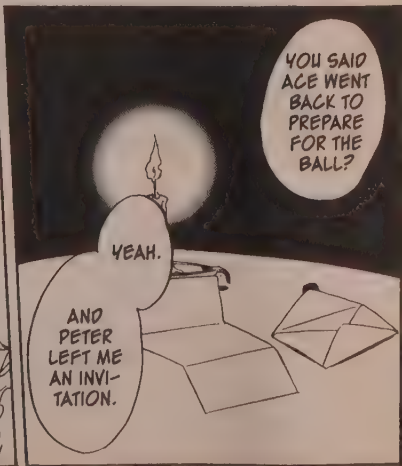


DID THE
DOCTOR
FINISH?

YES. HE
LEFT HIM
TO SLEEP.



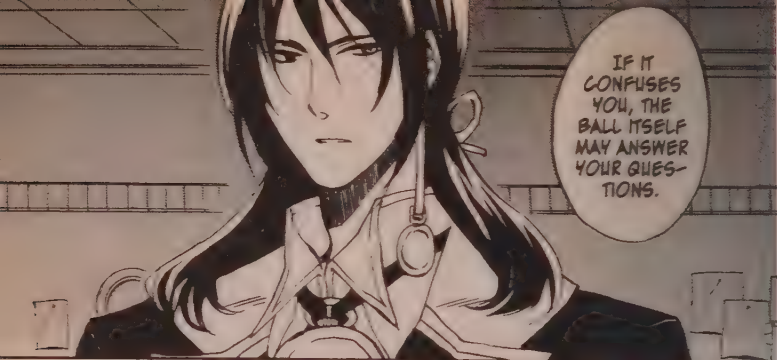
BUT A
BALL...I'VE
ONLY READ
ABOUT THEM
IN FAIRY
TALES.



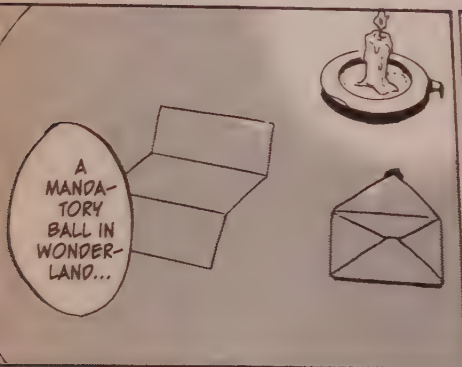
YOU SAID
ACE WENT
BACK TO
PREPARE
FOR THE
BALL?

YEAH.

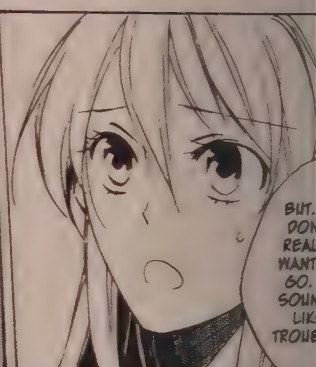
AND
PETER
LEFT ME
AN INVITATION.



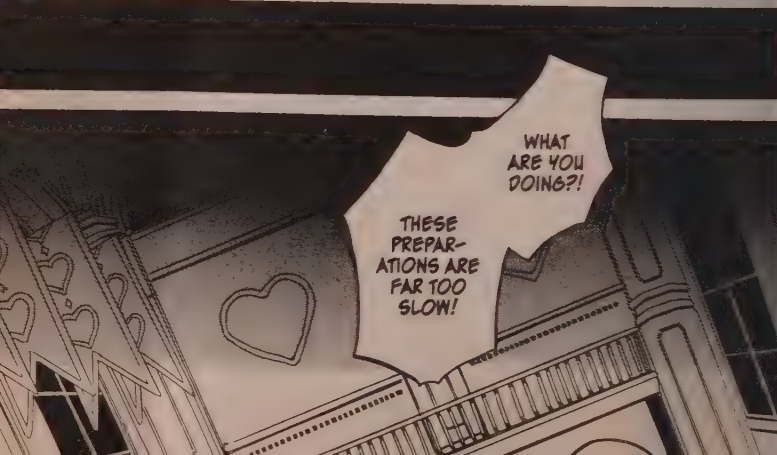
IF IT
CONFUSES
YOU, THE
BALL ITSELF
MAY ANSWER
YOUR QUES-
TIONS.



A
MANDA-
TORY
BALL IN
WONDER-
LAND...

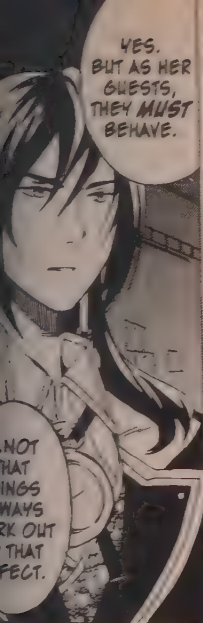


BUT,
DON
REAL
WANT
GO.
SOUN
LIKE
TROUB



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

THESE
PREPAR-
ATIONS ARE
FAR TOO
SLOW!

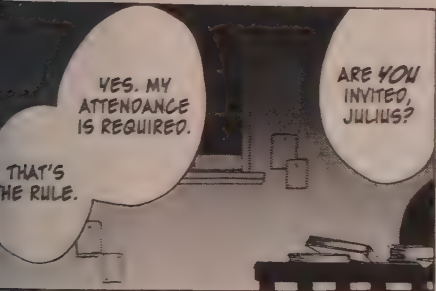


YES.
BUT AS HER
GUESTS,
THEY **MUST**
BEHAVE.

NOT
THAT
INGS
WAYS
RK OUT
THAT
PECT.



THEN...HER
ENEMIES
WILL BE
THERE?



YES. MY
ATTENDANCE
IS REQUIRED.

ARE YOU
INVITED,
JULIUS?

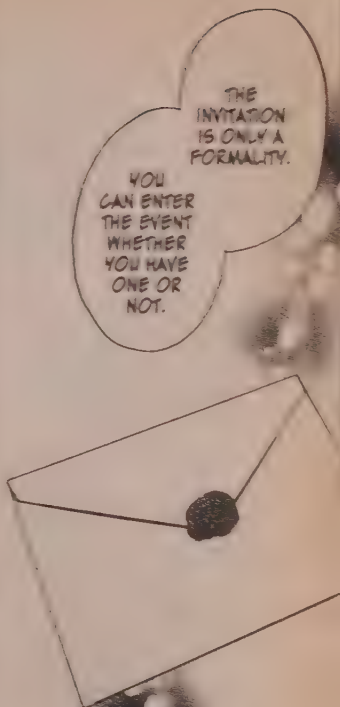
THAT'S
THE RULE.



Weird.

UH...
OKAY.

Why is there
a forced
party rule?

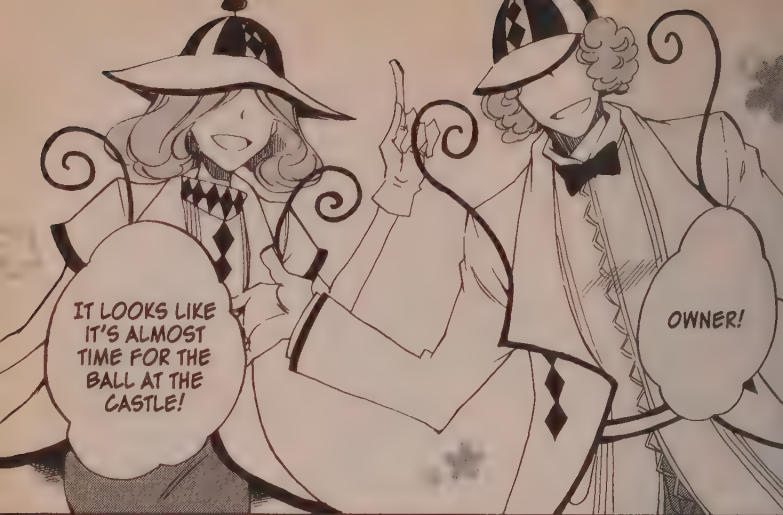


THE
INVITATION
IS ONLY A
FORMALITY.

YOU
CAN ENTER
THE EVENT
WHETHER
YOU HAVE
ONE OR
NOT.

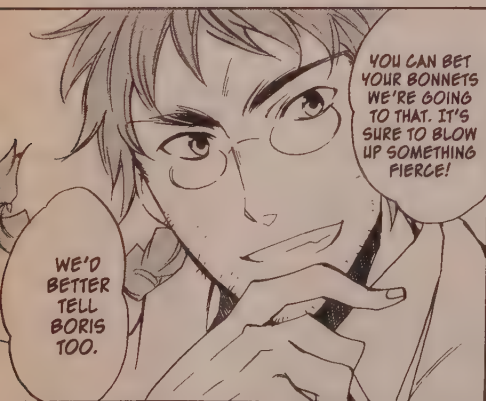
...AND THE
QUEEN WILL
EQUALLY
ENTERTAIN
THEM ALL.

EVERYONE
IS INVITED.
ALL PEOPLE
BECOME
EQUAL AT
THIS AFFAIR
...



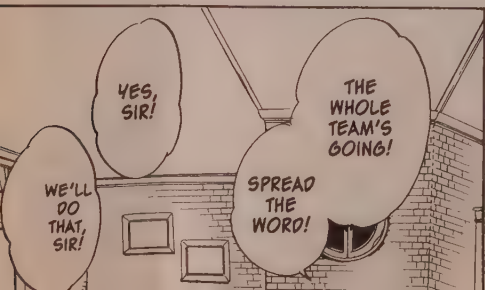
IT LOOKS LIKE
IT'S ALMOST
TIME FOR THE
BALL AT THE
CASTLE!

OWNER!



YOU CAN BET
YOUR BONNETS
WE'RE GOING
TO THAT. IT'S
SURE TO BLOW
UP SOMETHING
FIERCE!

WE'D
BETTER
TELL
BORIS
TOO.

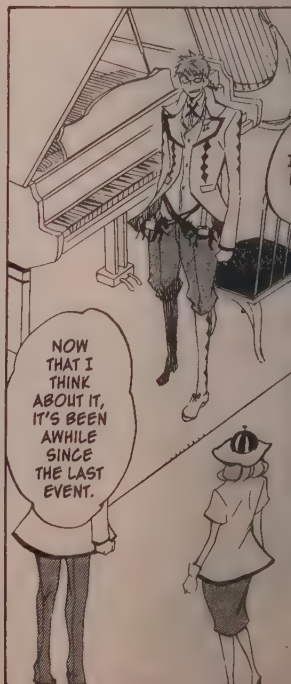


YES,
SIR!

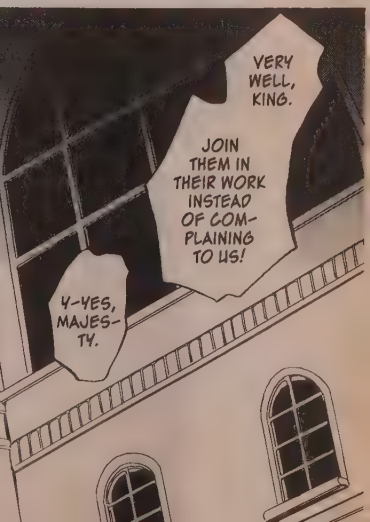
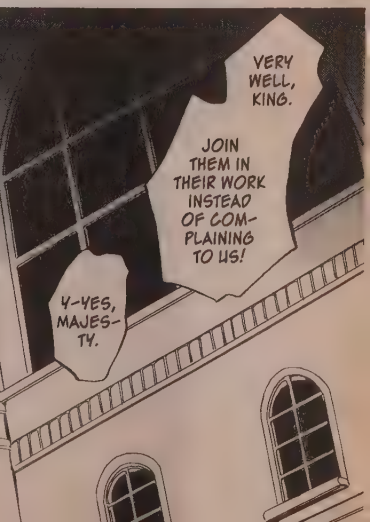
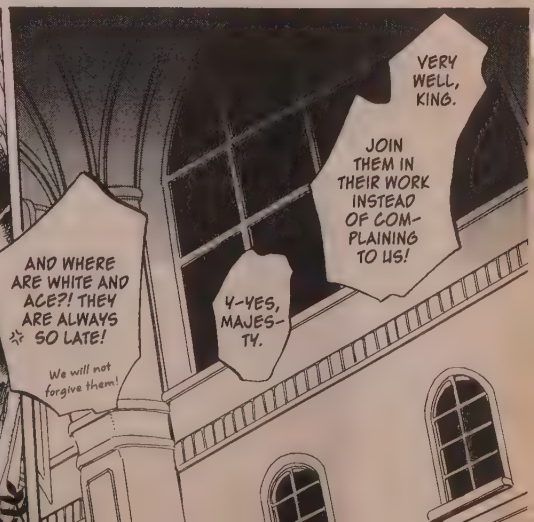
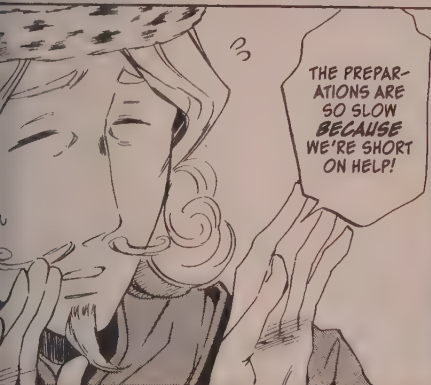
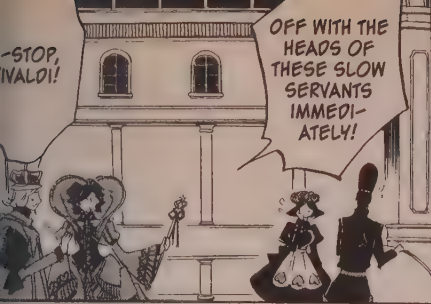
THE
WHOLE
TEAM'S
GOING!

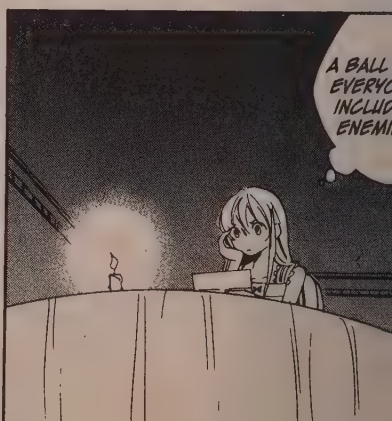
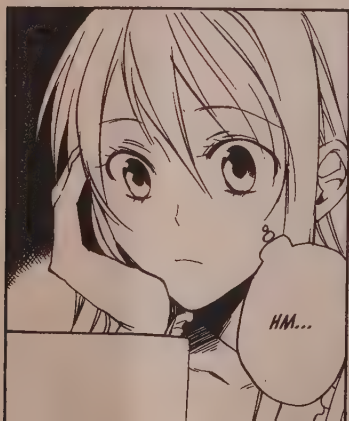
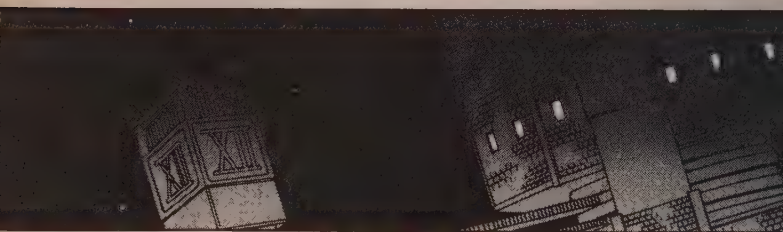
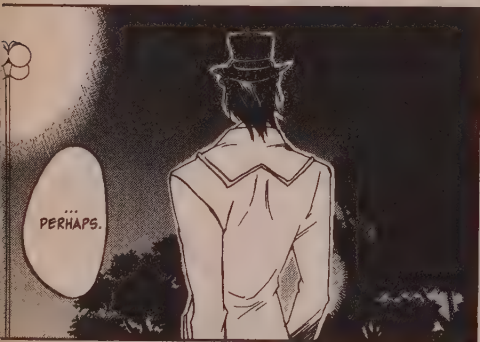
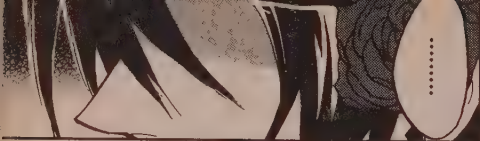
SPREAD
THE
WORD!

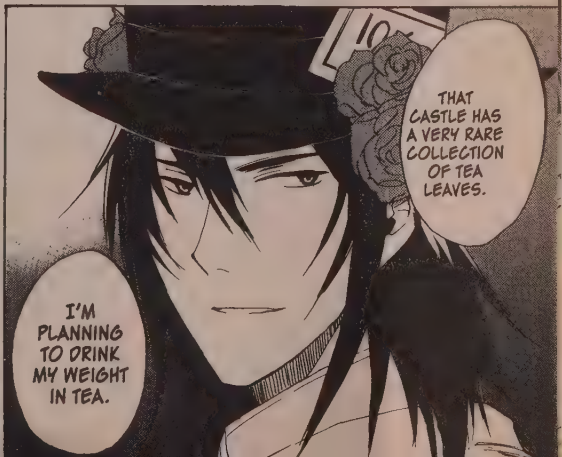
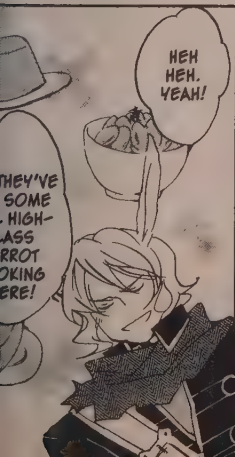
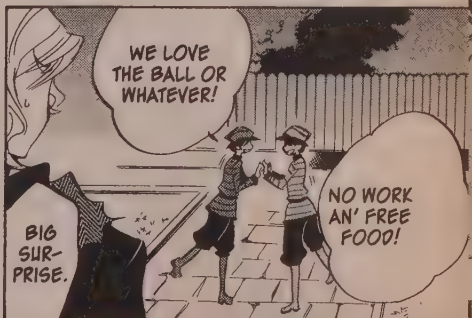
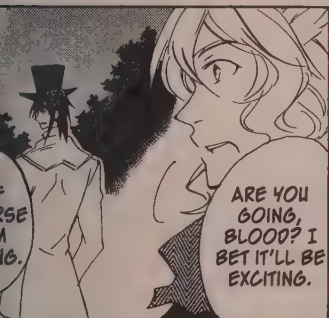
WE'LL
DO
THAT,
SIR!



NOW
THAT I
THINK
ABOUT IT,
IT'S BEEN
AWHILE
SINCE
THE LAST
EVENT.

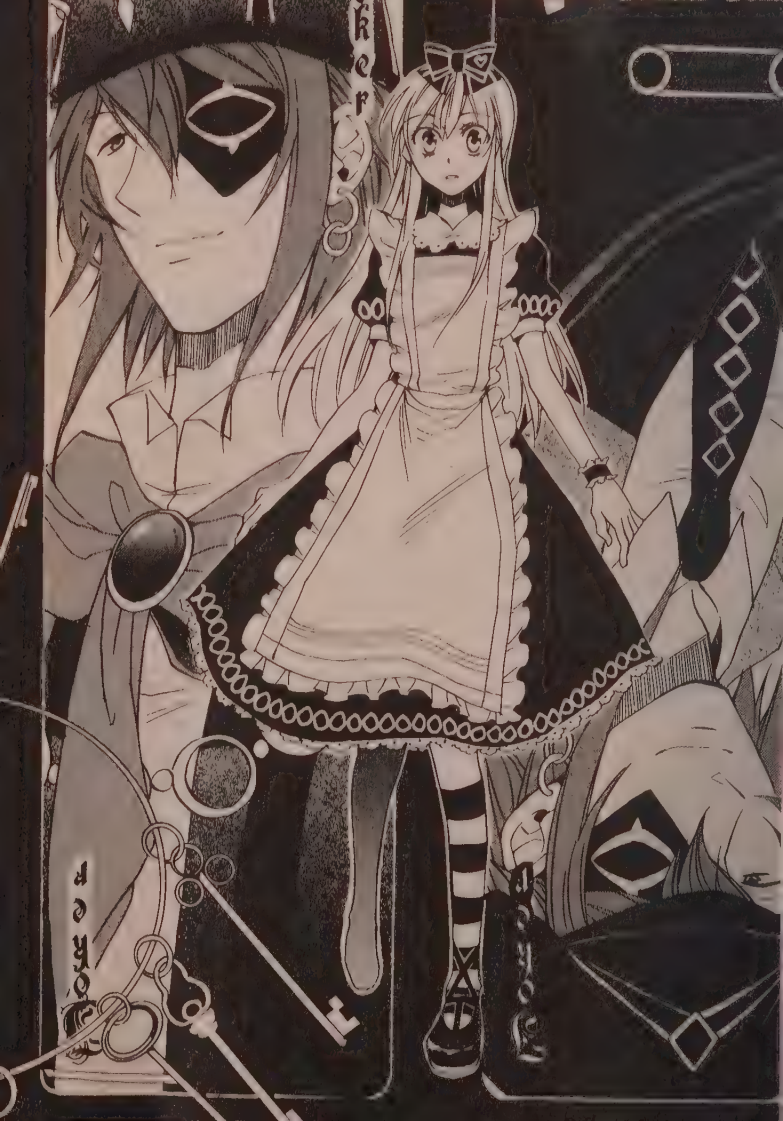


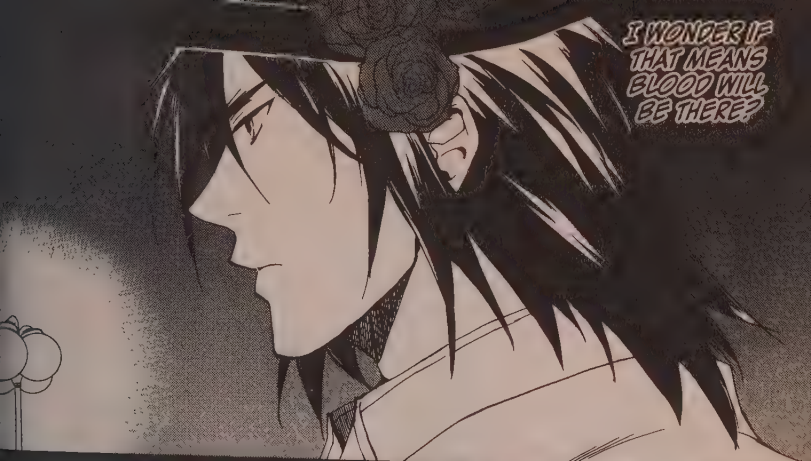




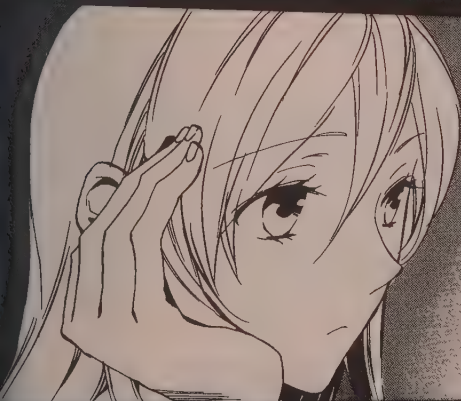
ジョーカーの国のアリス

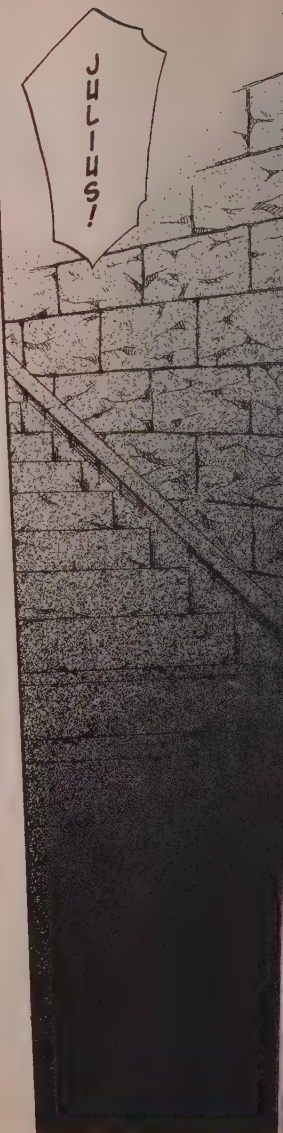
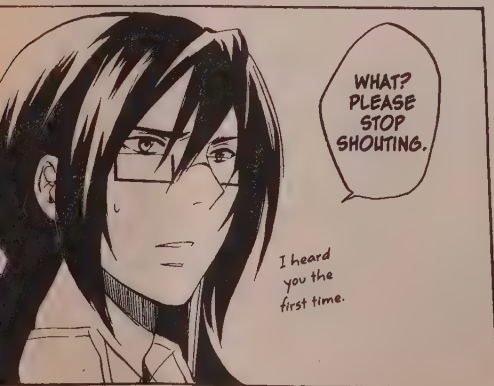
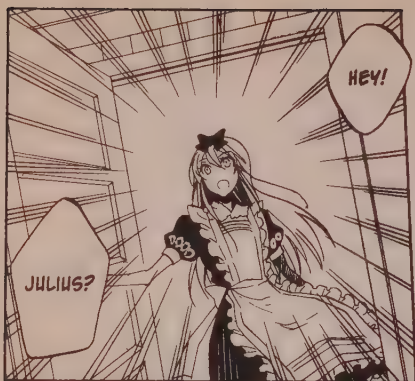
Alice in the Country of the Joker ~ Wonderful Wonder World



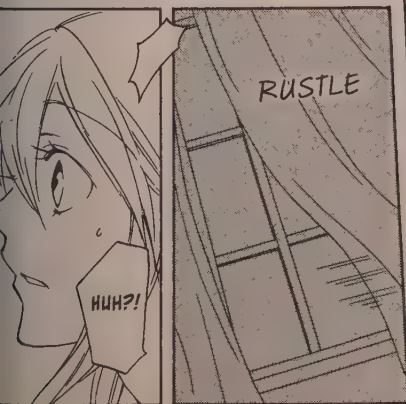
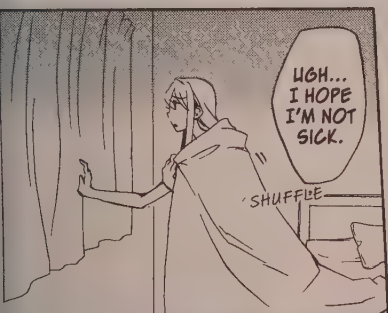


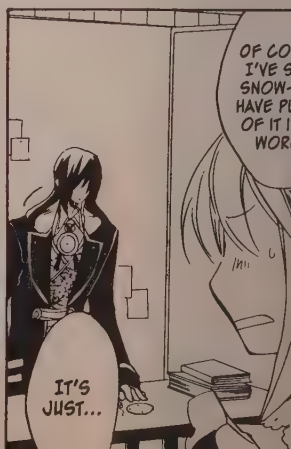
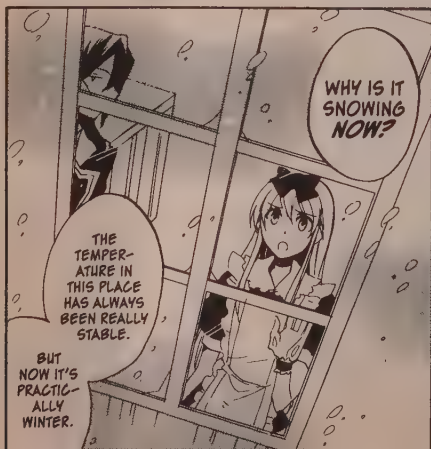
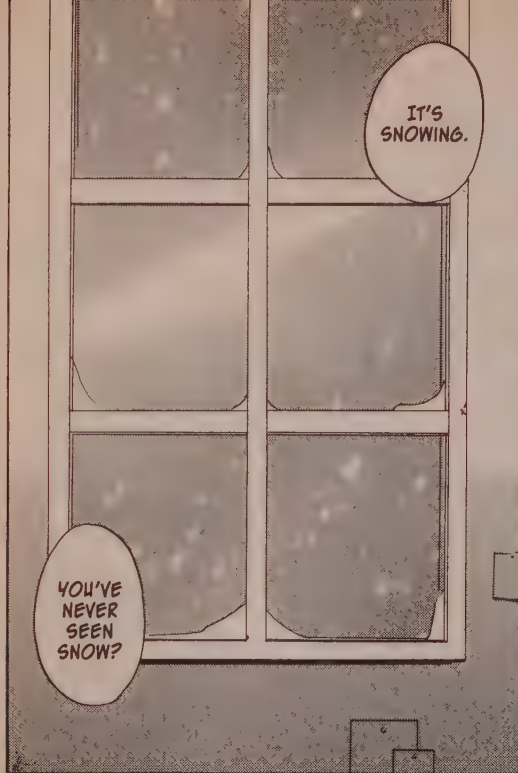
I WONDER IF
THAT MEANS
BLOOD WILL
BE THERE?

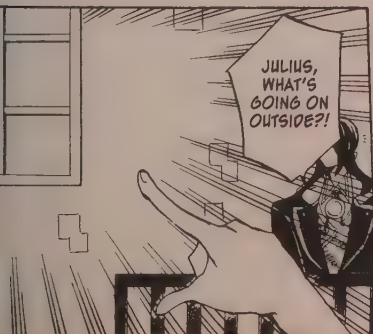
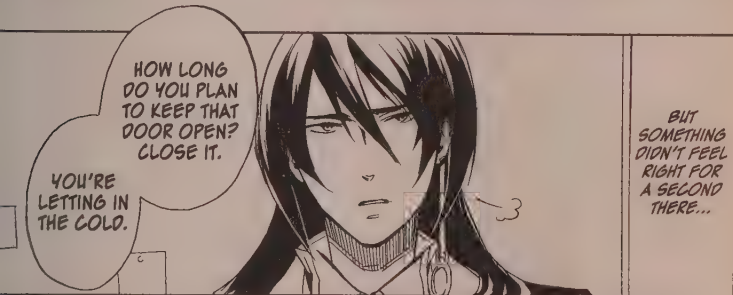
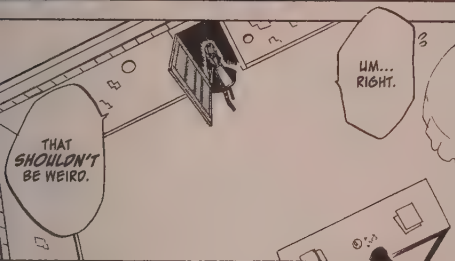
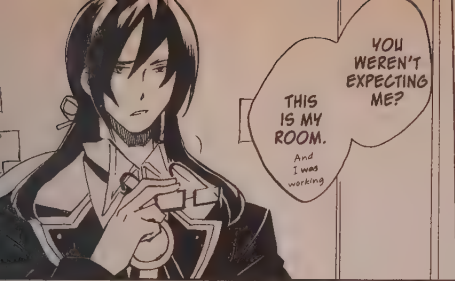




A
CHOO!







EX-
CUSE ME,
CLOCK-
MAKER.

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN? AND IT
DOESN'T EXPL
WHY WE'RE SUP
HAVING WINTER

WOULD
YOU LIKE
SOME
GOLLOP?

I MADE
EXTRA AND
THOUGHT
I WOULD
BRING
SOME.

...IT'S
THE
LIZARD.
WHAT
NOW?

Sorry--I
forgot to
close it.

IS
CO
LEA
DOO
LIKE

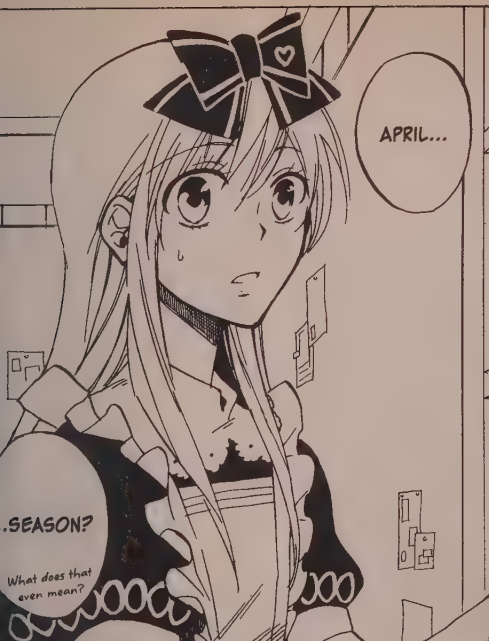
N-NICE
TO
MEET
YOU.

Sir.

IS HE
ONE OF
JULIUS'S
FRIENDS?

OH...
IT'S
YOU.

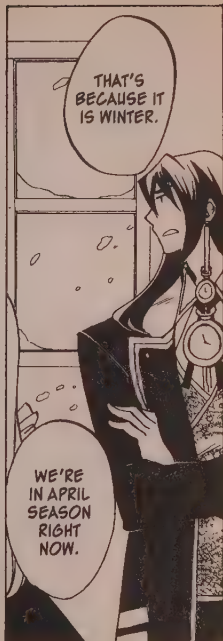




APRIL...

SEASON?

What does that
even mean?



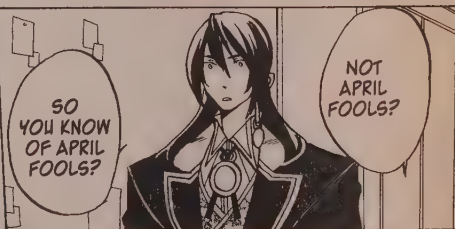
THAT'S
BECAUSE IT
IS WINTER.

WE'RE
IN APRIL
SEASON
RIGHT
NOW.



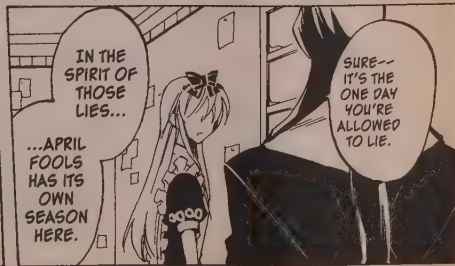
SO A
SEASON...
WHERE
YOU CAN
LIE.

ACTLY.



SO
YOU KNOW
OF APRIL
FOOLS?

NOT
APRIL
FOOLS?



IN THE
SPIRIT OF
THOSE
LIES...

...APRIL
FOOLS
HAS ITS
OWN
SEASON
HERE.

SURE--
IT'S THE
ONE DAY
YOU'RE
ALLOWED
TO LIE.

UM, I
HAVE A
QUESTION.

Since
when do
we have a
fireplace?

DO
YOU FEEL
BETTER,
SIR?

Y-YEAH...
THIS IS
BETTER.

Phew.

CRACKLE
CRACKLE

GRAY AND
I ARE CITI-
ZENS OF THE
COUNTRY OF
CLOVERS.

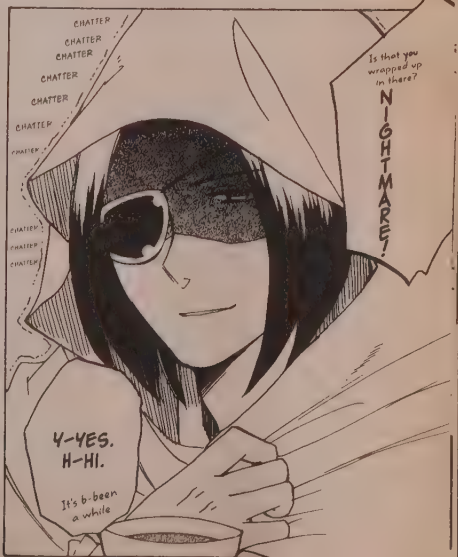
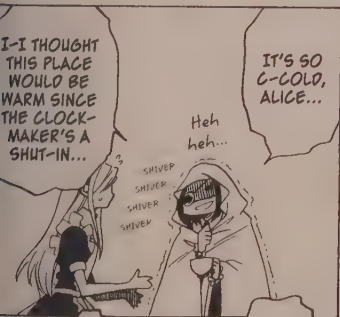
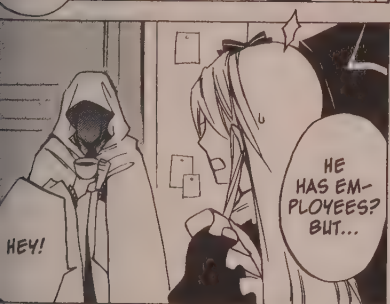
COUN-
TRY OF
CLOVERS
?

WHY IS
NIGHTMA
WANDER
AROUND?
THOUGHT
ONLY LIV
IN DREAM

IT'S NOT
THE SAME AS
THE COUNTRY
OF HEARTS.

THAT'S WHY
I HAD TO MEET
PEOPLE FROM
HERE THROUGH
THEIR DREAMS.

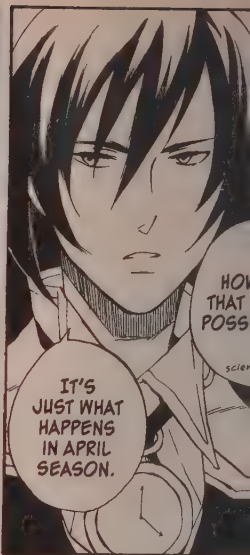
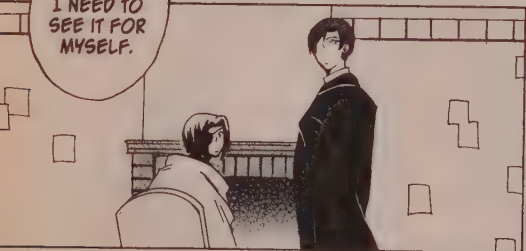
Aren't I
mysterious?





...THIS IS
REALLY
HARD TO GET
MY HEAD
AROUND.

I THINK
I NEED TO
SEE IT FOR
MYSELF.

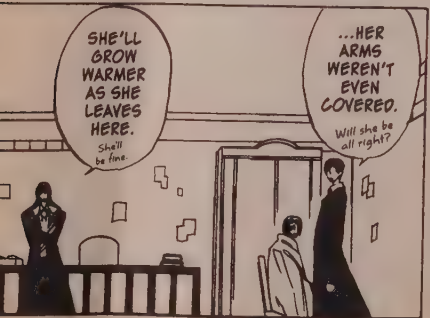


HOW
THAT
POSS

IT'S
JUST WHAT
HAPPENS
IN APRIL
SEASON.



SEE
YOU
LATER.

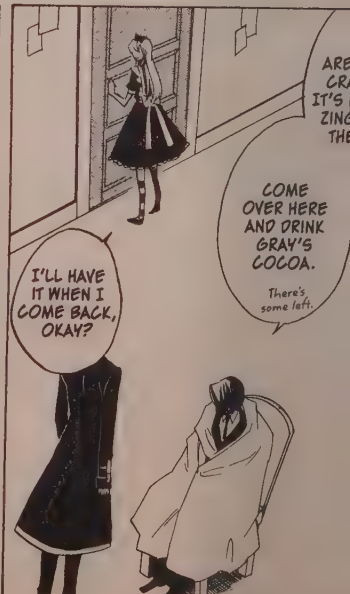


SHE'LL
GROW
WARMER
AS SHE
LEAVES
HERE.

She'll
be fine.

...HER
ARMS
WEREN'T
EVEN
COVERED.

Will she be
all right?

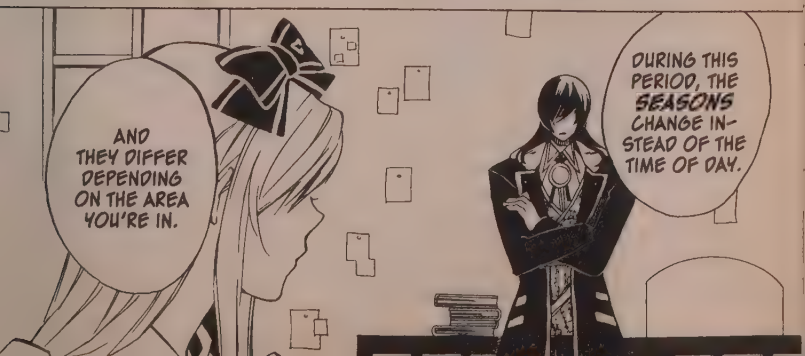
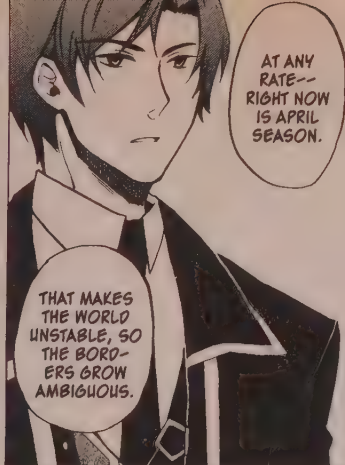


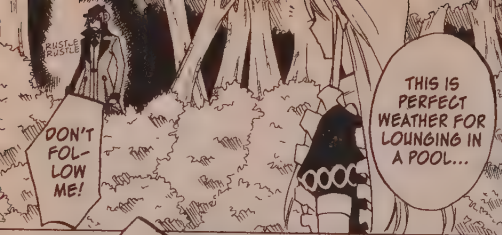
I'LL HAVE
IT WHEN I
COME BACK,
OKAY?

COME
OVER HERE
AND DRINK
GRAY'S
COCOA.

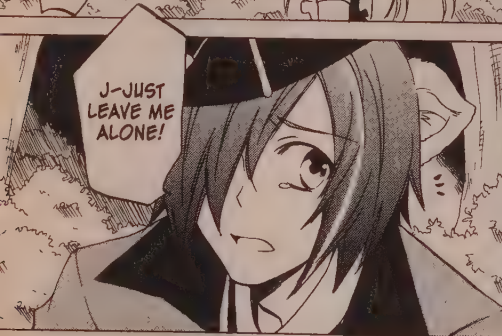
There's
some left.

ARE
GRAY
IT'S
ZING
THE





THIS IS
PERFECT
WEATHER FOR
LOUNGING IN
A POOL...



J-JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!



I
GUESS THAT
MEANS THE
AMUSEMENT
PARK IS IN
SUMMER.



SNIEF
SNIEF

HM?

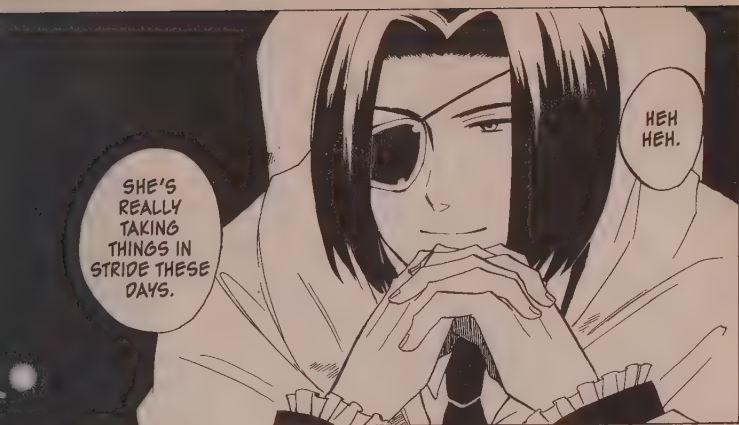


HUH?

SCAMPER

HEY!

HEY, YOU
GET OUT
OF HERE
THERE'S AN
AWFUL G
AFTER M



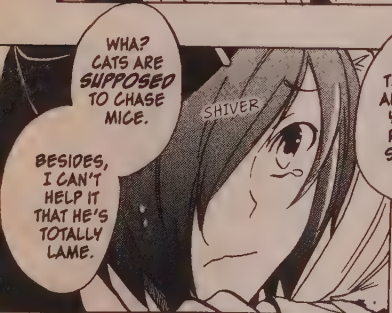
SHE'S
REALLY
TAKING
THINGS IN
STRIDE THESE
DAYS.

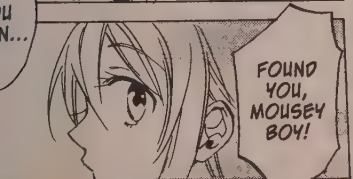
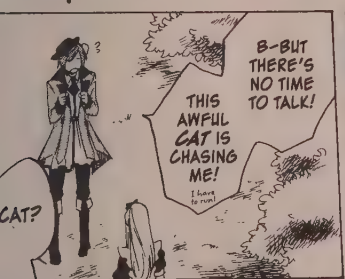
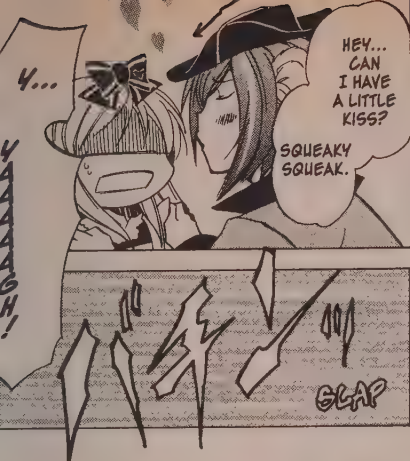
HEH
HEH.



GOOD-
BYE,
ALICE.

ENJOY
THE NEW
GAME.







ALICE,
MY
DEAR...

SQUEEZE

...
SPRING
IS HERE.

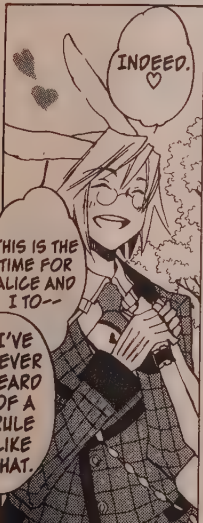
DO YOU
KNOW THE
RULE OF
SPRING?

IT'S A
VERY
BEAUTI-
FUL
THING.

UH,
YEAH?

I
NOTICED
THE
CHERRY
BLOS-
SOMS.

UH,
NO.



INDEED.
♡

THIS IS THE
TIME FOR
ALICE AND
I TO--

I'VE
NEVER
HEARD
OF A
RULE
LIKE
THAT.

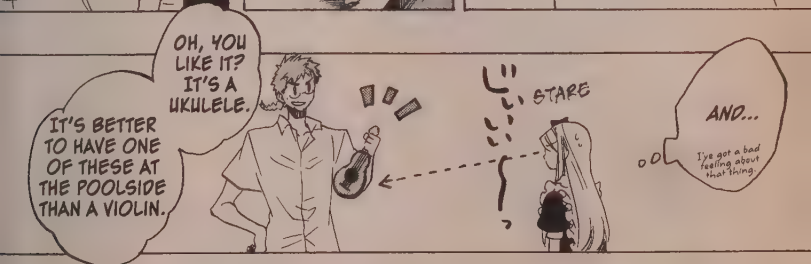
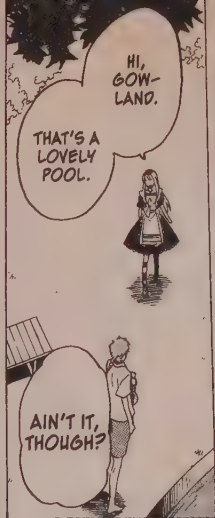


IN THIS
WORLD,
SPRING
IS THE
SEASON
OF LOVE.

YOU HAVE
TO FALL
IN LOVE
DURING IT.
YOU HAVE
TO--IT'S
A RULE!

W
H
A
T
?!







HA
HA!

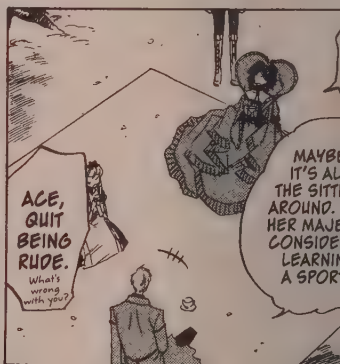
HER
MAJESTY'S
STARTING
TO SOUND
OLD.

AH...IT IS SO
CALMING FOR
US TO SIT WITH
ALICE. SHE IS
THE ONLY ONE
WHO DOESN'T
VEX US.



HEY,
ALICE.

WANT
TO GO
SOME-
WHERE
WITH
ME?



ACE,
QUIT
BEING
RUDE.

What's
wrong
with you?

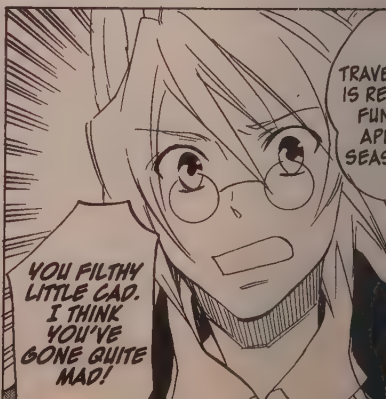
MAYBE
IT'S ALL
THE SITT
AROUND.
HER MAJ
CONSIDER
LEARNIN
A SPOR



I
WASN'T
ASKING
YOU.

I WAS
ASKING
HER.

ALICE
WILL
RE-
FUSE,
OF
COURSE



YOU FILTHY
LITTLE CAD.
I THINK
YOU'VE
GONE QUITE
MAD!

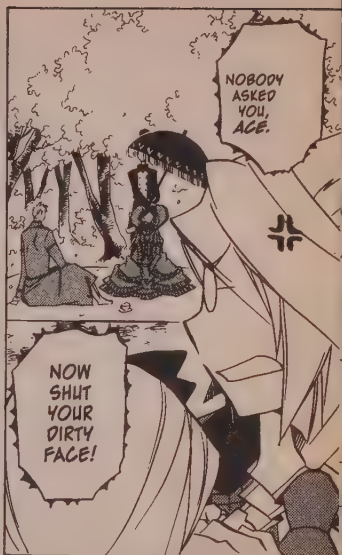
TRAVE
IS RE
FUN
AP
SEAS



DON'T
LIE TO
THE GIRL,
PETER.

YOU
KNOW
HOW I
HATE
LIARS.

LIE?



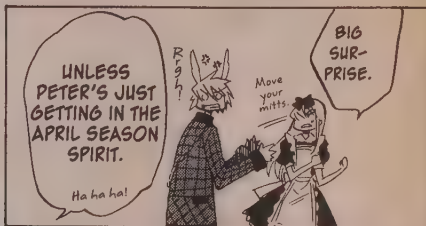
NBODY
ASKED
YOU,
ACE.

NOW
SHUT
YOUR
DIRTY
FACE!



HOW
UNSIGHTLY,
WHITE. YOU
ARE TAINTING
OUR PICNIC.

ALICE, I
INSIST YOU
SIT BESIDE
ME AT ONCE.



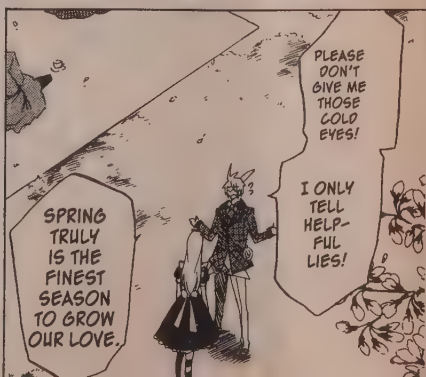
UNLESS
PETER'S JUST
GETTING IN THE
APRIL SEASON
SPIRIT.

Ha ha ha!

Rah

Move
your
mitts

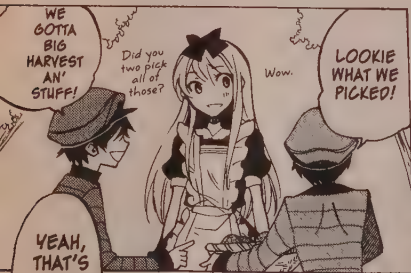
BIG
SUR-
PRISE.



SPRING
TRULY
IS THE
FINEST
SEASON
TO GROW
OUR LOVE.

PLEASE
DON'T
GIVE ME
THOSE
COLD
EYES!

I ONLY
TELL
HELP-
FUL
LIES!



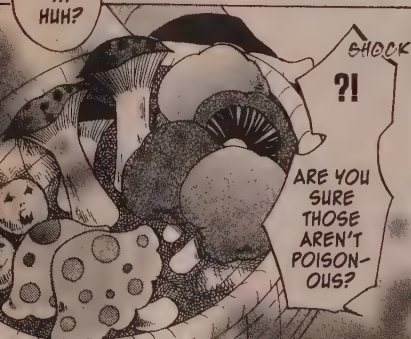
WE
GOTTA
BIG
HARVEST
AN'
STUFF!

Did you
two pick
all of
those?

Wow.

LOOKIE
WHAT WE
PICKED!

YEAH,
THAT'S
...
HUH?



SHOCK

?!

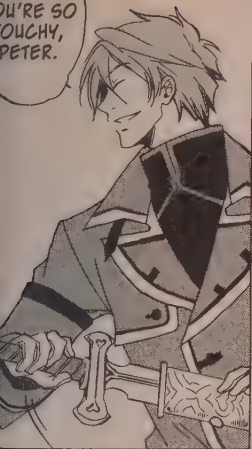
ARE YOU
SURE
THOSE
AREN'T
POISON-
OUS?



HEY

IT'S
THE
LADY!

HA HA!
YOU'RE SO
OUCHY,
PETER.



hll
4
+ 4

BUT
FEEL
FREE
TO GET
LOST
IN THE
WOODS
ON YOUR
OWN!

BANG

OOOH,
I LIKE
IT.

THEN, UM...
I'LL CUT YOU
UP INTO LITTLE
PIECES AND
GIVE EVERYONE
A SHOWER
OF YOU!



PREPARE TO
FIND YOURSELF
DOWN IN
THE MUD!

I'LL TURN
THESE PETALS
RED WITH YOUR
BLOOD.

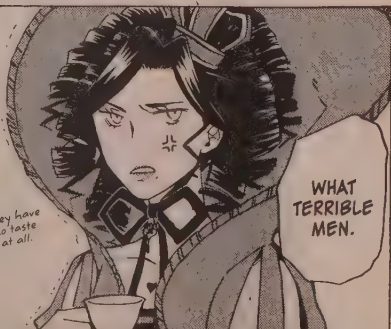
BANG

BANG

I
COULDN'T
AGREE
MORE.



They have
no taste
at all.



WHAT
TERRIBLE
MEN.

IT'S SO EASY TO
FORGET THESE
WEIRDOES ARE
THE MAFIA.

HEH
HEH.



Ugh.

I SEE A
SEA OF
ORANGE
...

WHAT
IS HE,
FIVE?



I HATE
HOW
THEY
MAKE A
LIVING...

...BUT I
CAN'T
HELP
BUT LIKE
THEM.

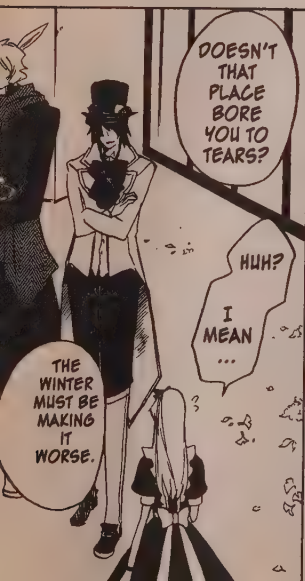


DOESN'T
THAT
PLACE
BORE
YOU TO
TEARS?

HUH?

I
MEAN
...

THE
WINTER
MUST BE
MAKING
IT
WORSE.



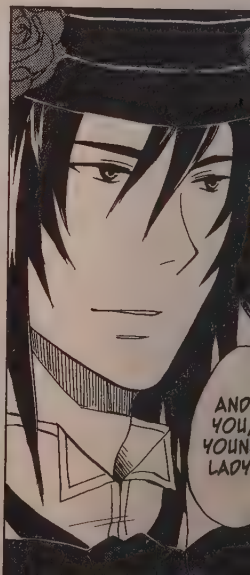
ARE YOU
STILL
LIVING
AT THE
TOWER?

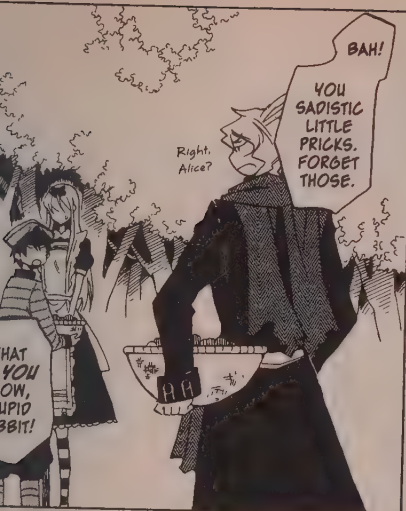
YEAH.

SO?



AND
YOU,
YOUNG
LADY.





BAH!

YOU
SADISTIC
LITTLE
PRICKS.
FORGET
THOSE.

Right,
Alice?

HAT
YOU
OW,
UPID
BBIT!



SURE THEY
ARE! AN'
THEY WORK
REAL FAST.
THEY'RE
SOOOO
COOL.

WE TURN
'EM INTO
POWDER
AN' SPREAD
IT AROUND
PLACES.

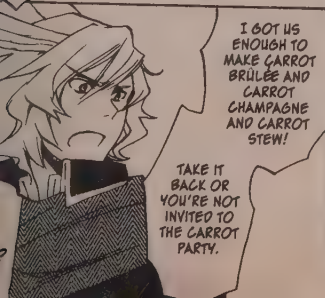
Can't wait!



YOU CAN
PICK CAR-
ROTS ALL
YEAR,
STUPID
RABBIT!

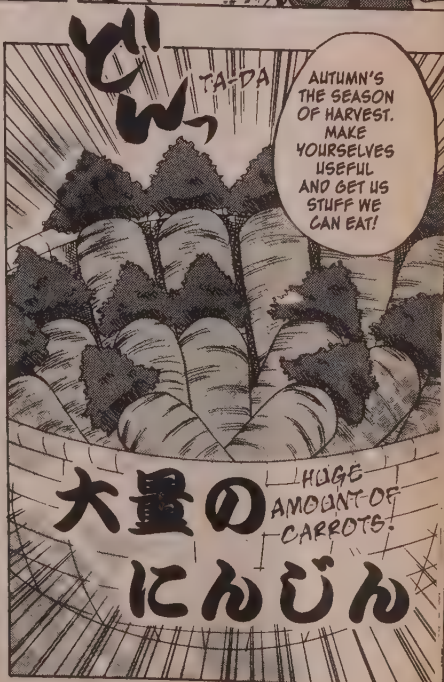
THAT'S
LAME,
STUPID
RABBIT!

WHA...
DON'T
MAKE
FUN OF
CARROTS!



I GOT US
ENOUGH TO
MAKE CARROT
BRÛLÉE AND
CARROT
CHAMPAGNE
AND CARROT
STEW!

TAKE IT
BACK OR
YOU'RE NOT
INVITED TO
THE CARROT
PARTY.



TA-DA

AUTUMN'S
THE SEASON
OF HARVEST.
MAKE
YOURSELVES
USEFUL
AND GET US
STUFF WE
CAN EAT!

大量の
にんじん

HUGE
AMOUNT OF
CARROTS.



I FEEL
SAFEST
GOING
HOME TO
THE TOWER
AT NIGHT.

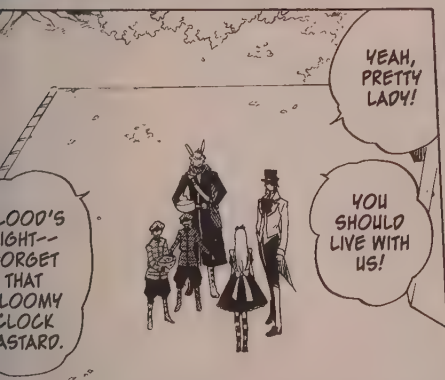
I CAN
LEAVE
WHEN-
EVER I
NEED TO.

BECAUSE
I CAN
ALWAYS
COME
BACK
WHENEVER
I FEEL
LIKE IT.

I'LL
VISIT
AGAIN
SOON,
OKAY?



THUMP



YEAH,
PRETTY
LADY!

YOU
SHOULD
LIVE WITH
US!

LOOOO'S
RIGHT--
FORGET
THAT
LOOMY
CLOCK
ASTARD.



ER,
THAT'S...
SWEET?

BUT
I'M
SORRY.

OOOOO



FORGET
THAT OPEN
GRAVE
AND MOVE
IN WITH
US.

I'LL
MAKE
SURE
TO KEEP
YOU...
BUSY.

JANGLE

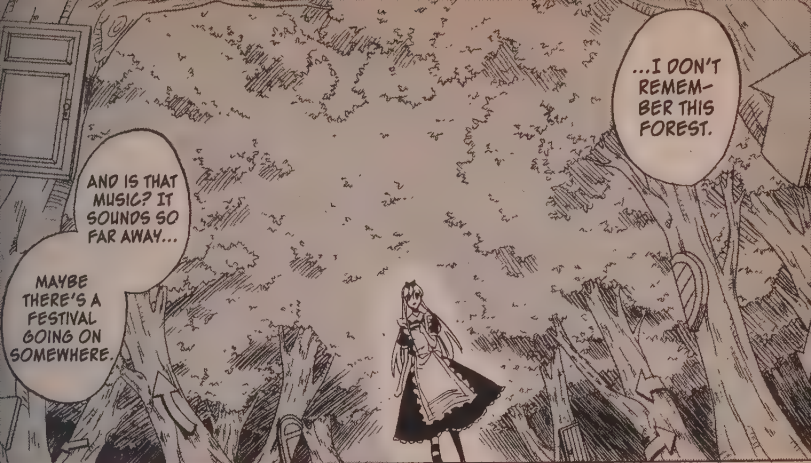
I NEED TO
MAKE UP
MY MIND.

HELLO,
LITTLE
MISS.

WHY DO
YOU LOOK
SO SAD?

I MEAN... I DON'T WANT
TO END UP DESENSITIZED
TO VIOLENCE. THAT'S
A REAL RISK HERE.

BUT THERE'S STILL A PART
OF ME THAT KINDA WANTS
TO FIT IN WITH EVERYONE.



AND IS THAT
MUSIC? IT
SOUNDS SO
FAR AWAY...

...I DON'T
REMEM-
BER THIS
FOREST.

MAYBE
THERE'S A
FESTIVAL
GOING ON
SOMEWHERE.



I DON'T
SEE A
SEASON
HERE,
THOUGH.

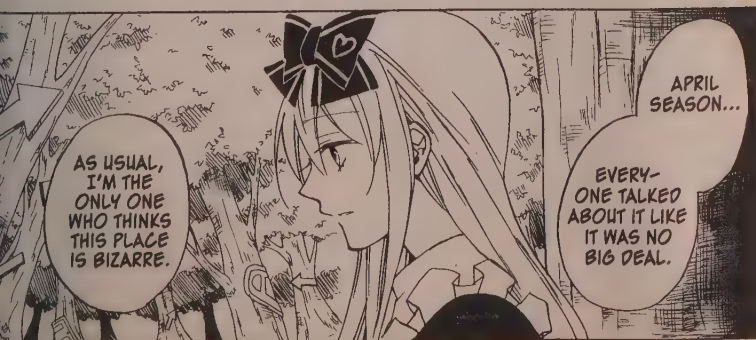
MAYBE
I'LL SIT
FOR A
MINUTE.



PHEW.

I'M
REALLY
TIRED.

ALL FOUR
SEASONS
AT ONCE IS
EXHAUST-
ING.



APRIL
SEASON...

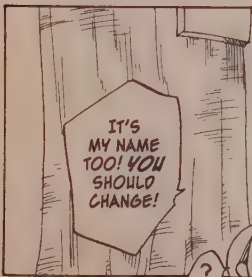
AS USUAL,
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
WHO THINKS
THIS PLACE
IS BIZARRE.

EVERY-
ONE TALKED
ABOUT IT LIKE
IT WAS NO
BIG DEAL.



NICE TO
MEET YA,
SIS!

AND I'
JOKE!



IT'S
MY NAME
TOO! YOU
SHOULD
CHANGE!

JOKER'S
MY NAME.

SHUT UP,
JOKER. THIS
WOULDN'T
HAPPEN IF YOU
JUST CHANGED
YOUR NAME!

*How many
times do I
have to say it?*

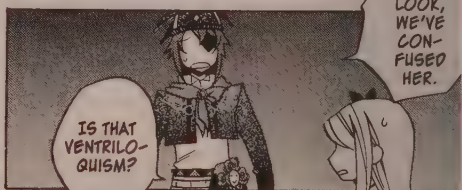


HEY!

YOU'LL
CONFUSE
THE GIRL.
GO BACK
IN, JOKER.

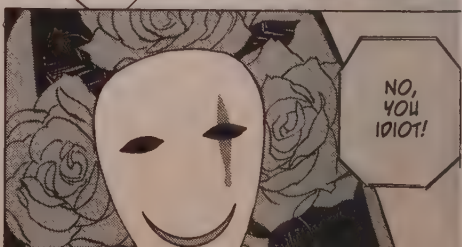


WELL,
I'VE GOT-
TEN USED
TO FREAKS
POPPING
UP OUT OF
NOWHERE.

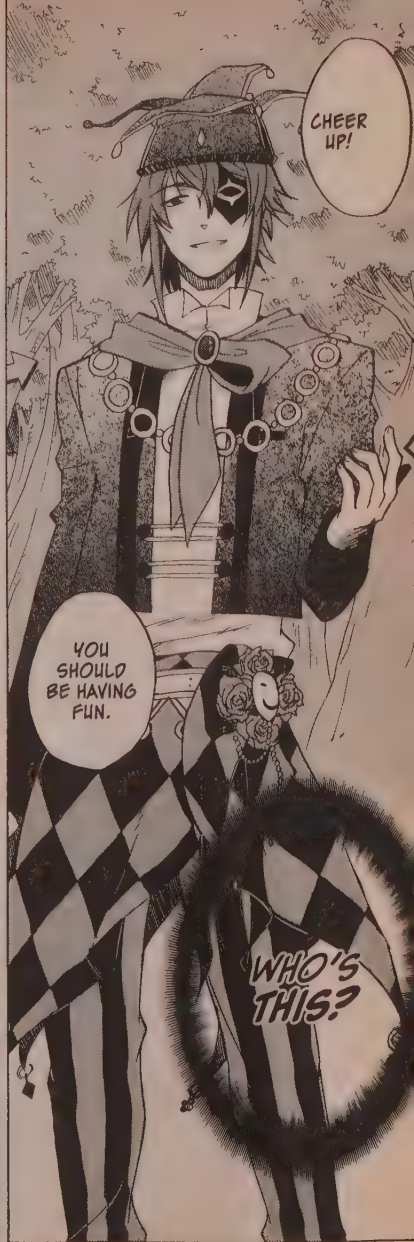
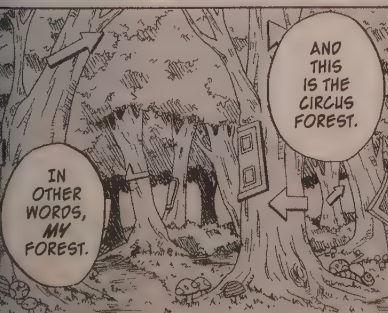
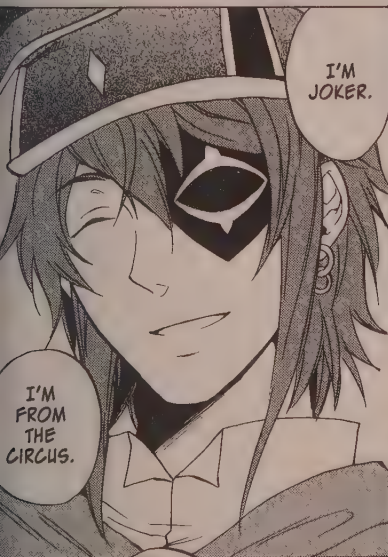


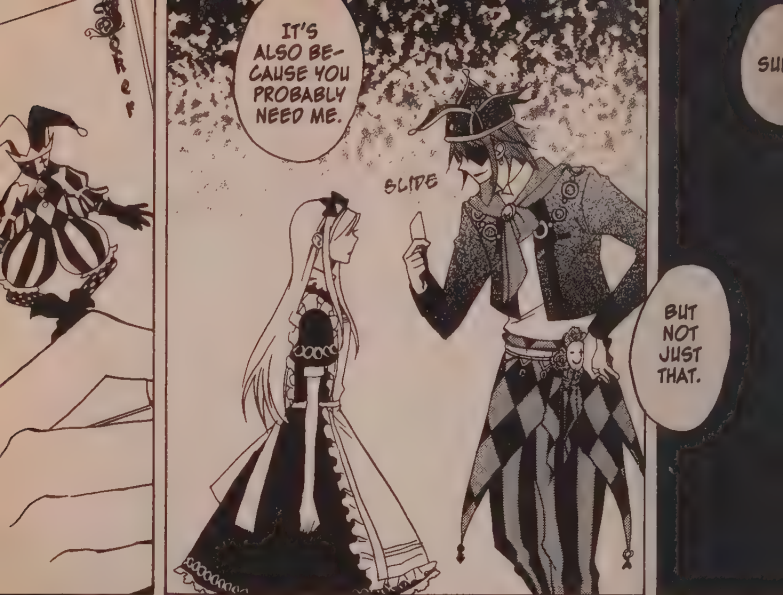
IS THAT
VENTRILO-
QUISM?

AW...
LOOK,
WE'VE
CONFU-
SED
HER.



NO,
YOU
IDIOT!





IT'S
ALSO BE-
CAUSE YOU
PROBABLY
NEED ME.

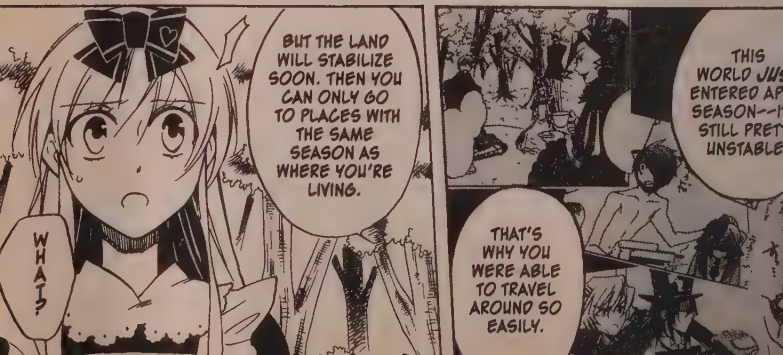
SLIDE

BUT
NOT
JUST
THAT.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

?

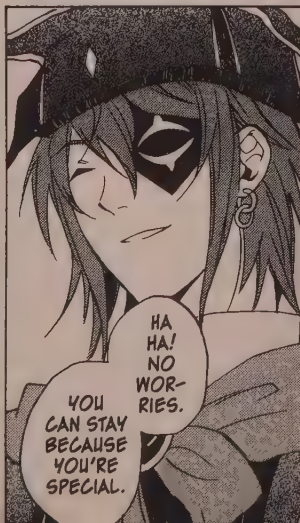
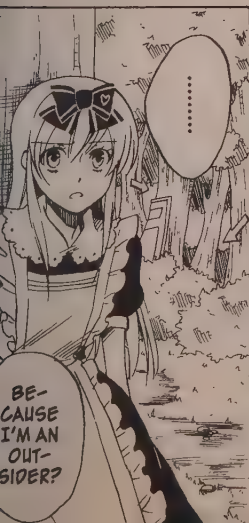
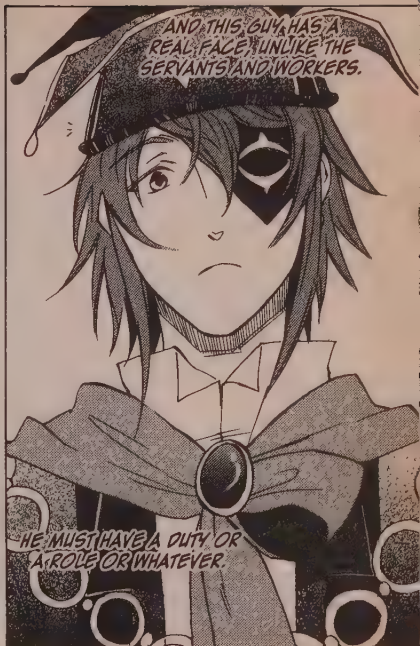
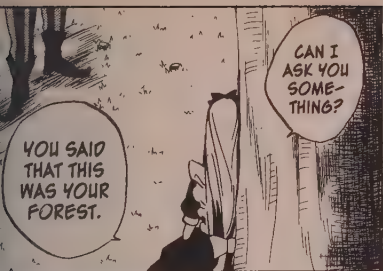


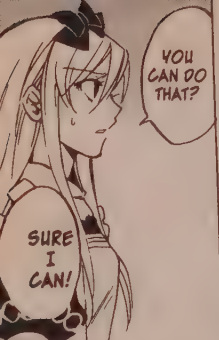
BUT THE LAND
WILL STABILIZE
SOON. THEN YOU
CAN ONLY GO
TO PLACES WITH
THE SAME
SEASON AS
WHERE YOU'RE
LIVING.

WHAT?

THIS
WORLD JUST
ENTERED A
SEASON--I
STILL PRET
UNSTABLE

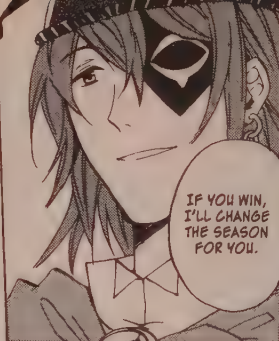
THAT'S
WHY YOU
WERE ABLE
TO TRAVEL
AROUND SO
EASILY.



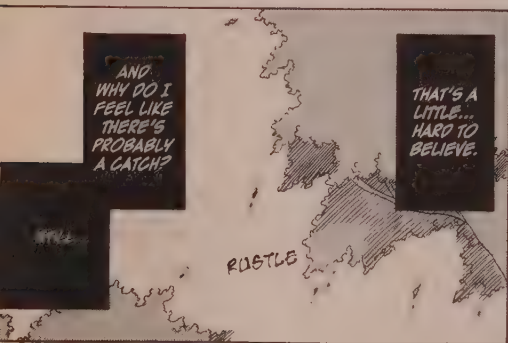


YOU
CAN DO
THAT?

SURE
I
CAN!



IF YOU WIN,
I'LL CHANGE
THE SEASON
FOR YOU.



AND
WHY DO I
FEEL LIKE
THERE'S
PROBABLY
A CATCH?

THAT'S A
LITTLE...
HARD TO
BELIEVE.

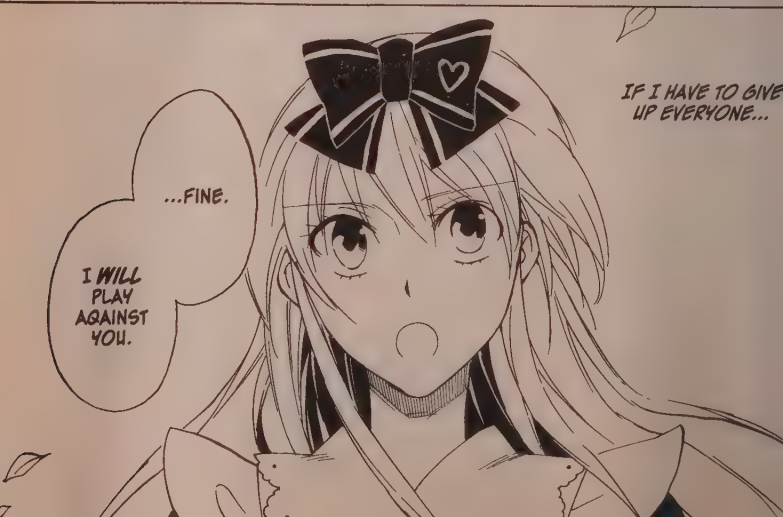
RUSTLE



A
GAME

YEAH.
JUST
NORM.
CARD
GAME

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER WHICH
GAME--
ANY GAME
YOU KNOW
IS FINE.



IF I HAVE TO GIVE
UP EVERYONE...

...FINE.

I WILL
PLAY
AGAINST
YOU.

SINCE
WHEN...

I COULD ALWAYS
TRAVEL WHEREVER
I WANTED! DOES
THIS MEAN I WON'T
BE ABLE TO SEE
ANYONE?!

NO
WAY!

I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO LEAVE
THE
TOWER?!

YUP!

WELL...

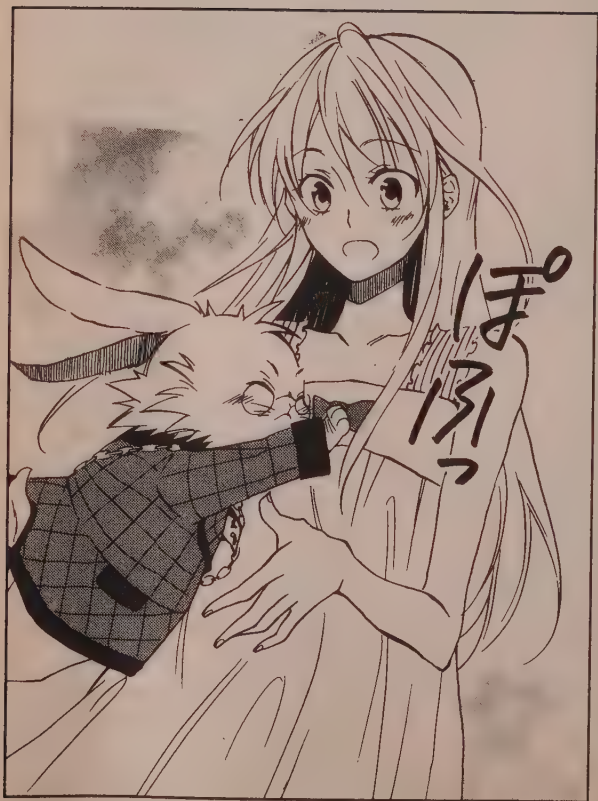
FWIP

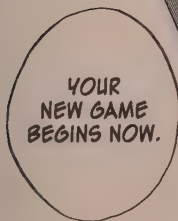
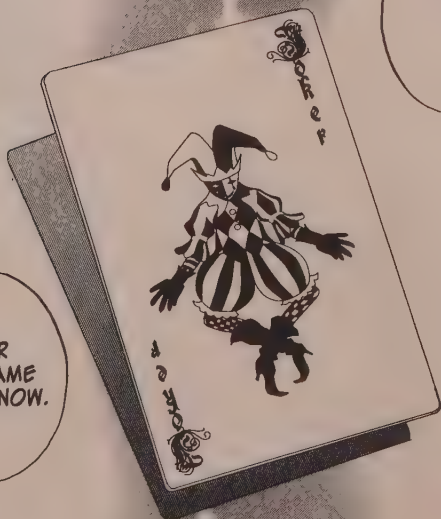
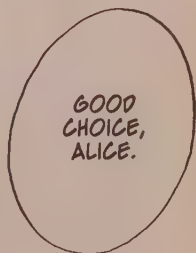
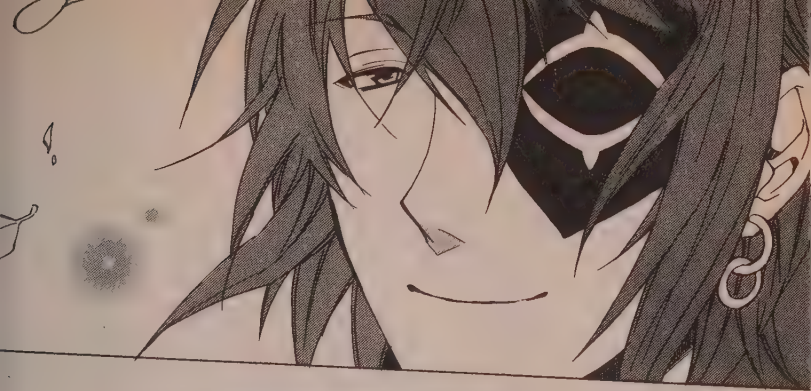
...THEN
YOU'LL HAVE
TO BEAT ME
IN A GAME.

YOU WANT
TO TRAVEL
TO PLACES
BESIDES
YOUR OWN
HOME?

WELL,
YEAH.

MY FRI-
ENDS...!





In the next volume of...

¹♥ **Alice** IN THE COUNTRY OF **Hearts**

As the big ball approaches, everyone has an opinion on whether Alice should attend or not, and, more importantly, what kind of dress she should wear. But when Alice hears of Blood's attendance, she changes her mind about spending time with Wonderland's finest. The party promises to offer more than dresses and dancing in Alice in the Country of Hearts Volume 5!

ハートの国のアリス

~ Wonderful Wonder World ~

QuinRose × ほしの総明



Editor's Notes

Cindy Suzuki

It was yet another busy month here in the TOKYOPOP editorial department! There are many reasons why this month has been a bit crazier than the previous months. One reason being that we have a lot of big titles coming up! We've been plugging away trying to make these titles very special just for you.

Another reason why we're so busy is that it's intern rotation time. Meaning, our love interns Sarah and Noora have concluded their internship. Most editorial internships last for about three months, sometimes longer depending on whether the university is on a quarter or semester system. Anyhow, as we said sayonara to Sarah and Noora, we said konnichiwa to our new interns Tim and Joey. It's fantastic that we always get brilliant editorial interns, but training and re-training constantly keeps us on our toes.

Interested in the life of a TOKYOPOP editorial intern? Well, you can find out more by subscribing to our newsletter at www.TOKYOPOP.com or LIKING us on Facebook. Our interns write tons of neat articles that show off their incredible knowledge and love of manga, anime and Japanese culture. It's really inspiring to work with such a talented bunch. So, thanks all interns, current and past. We love ya <3

See you again next month!

Cindy Suzuki, Editor

For exclusive updates, be sure to find us here:

www.TOKYOPOP.com

www.Facebook.com/TOKYOPOP

www.Twitter.com/TOKYOPOP

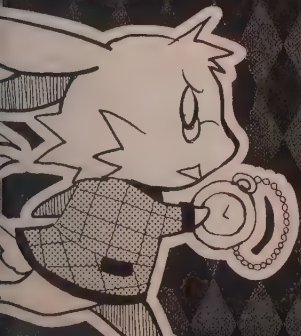
A  **TOKYOPOP** Manga
E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com

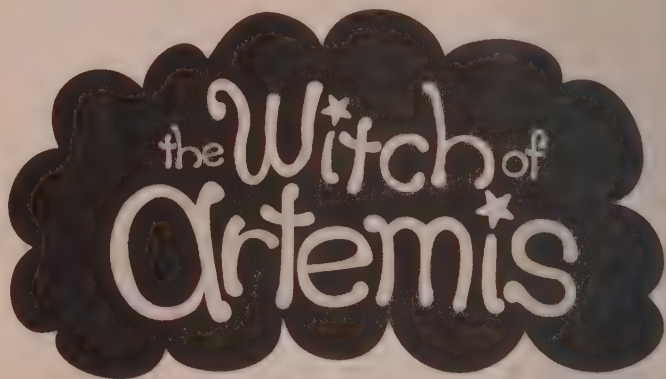
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 Alice in the country of the hearts
~ Wonderful Wonder World ~

Presented by
QuinRose & Soumei Hoshino



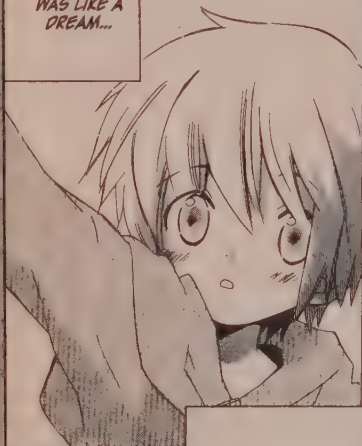


the Witch of Artemis

As a child, Kazuki's head was filled with the stories his dad told him of another planet called Artemis. Even now that he's older and his dad has passed away, Kazuki refuses to stop believing. All he wants to do is visit Artemis, and a surprising chain of events may just give him his chance! Now Kazuki begins a quest to learn about the new world he finds himself in and the strange people he meets.



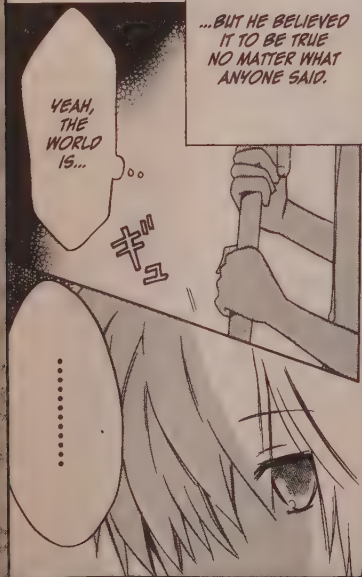
DAD'S
STORY
WAS LIKE A
DREAM...



...BUT HE BELIEVED
IT TO BE TRUE
NO MATTER WHAT
ANYONE SAID.

YEAH,
THE
WORLD
IS...

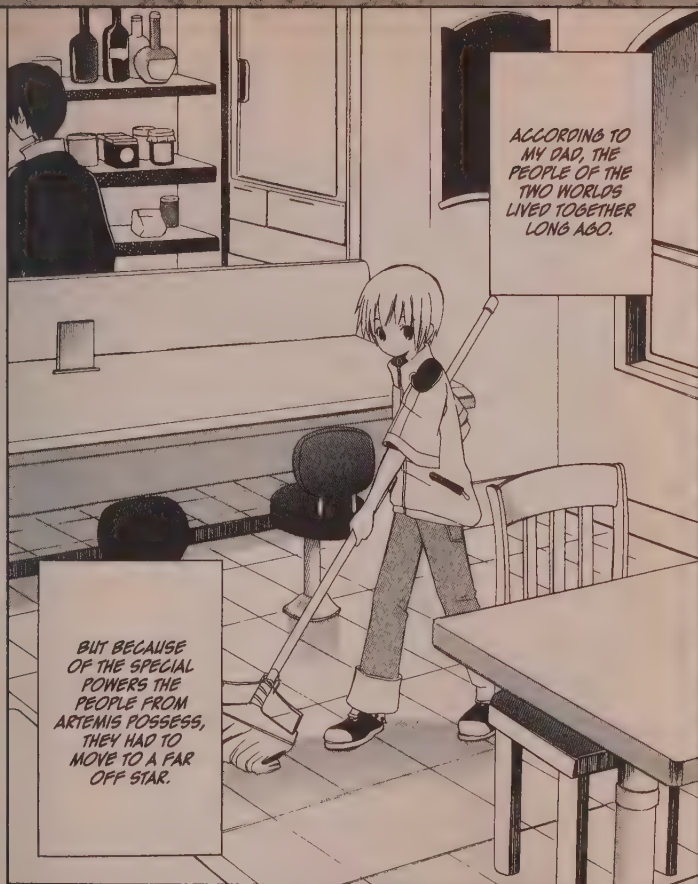
✕
✕
✕



KAZUKI...

THE WORLD IS
LARGER THAN
WE THINK.





ACCORDING TO
MY DAD, THE
PEOPLE OF THE
TWO WORLDS
LIVED TOGETHER
LONG AGO.

BUT BECAUSE
OF THE SPECIAL
POWERS THE
PEOPLE FROM
ARTEMIS POSSESS,
THEY HAD TO
MOVE TO A FAR
OFF STAR.

KAZUKI.

NOBODY BELIEVES
IT THOUGH...

WHERE
DO YOU
GET THAT
FROM?!

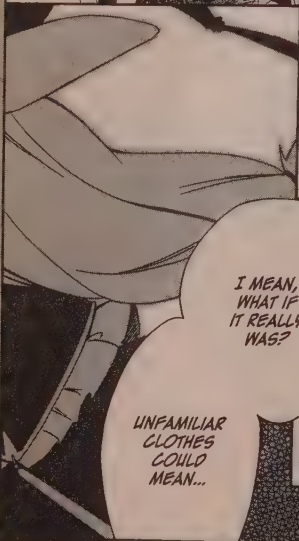
...A
PERSON
FROM
ARTEMIS.

WELL:

HEY,
MAYBE
THAT'S
...

HUH?

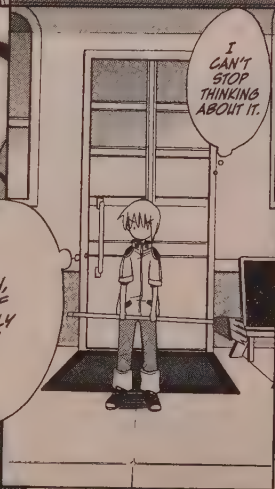
PEOPLE ARE
WARNED TO
STAY INDOORS
AND...BZZT



I MEAN,
WHAT IF
IT REALLY
WAS?

UNFAMILIAR
CLOTHES
COULD
MEAN...

I
CAN'T
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT IT.



BACK TO
WORK!

GO
SWEEP
THE
FRONT!



HEY, DAD.

I WANT TO GO
TO ARTEMIS.

...THAT
YOU'RE NOT
A LIAR...

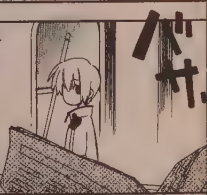


THEN I
COULD
PROVE TO
EVERYONE...

AND
NOW, THE
NEWS.

AH CRAP,
THE RE-
CEPTION
SUCKS.

THE
WORLD
SURE IS A
DANGER-
OUS
PLACE.



THE FEMALE
WAS WEARING
UNFAMILIAR
CLOTHES
AND...BZZT...



LAST NIGHT, AN
INTRUDER WAS
SPOTTED AT
THE CENTRAL
TOWER SECTION
OF THE CITY.

...
CLOTHES
...?

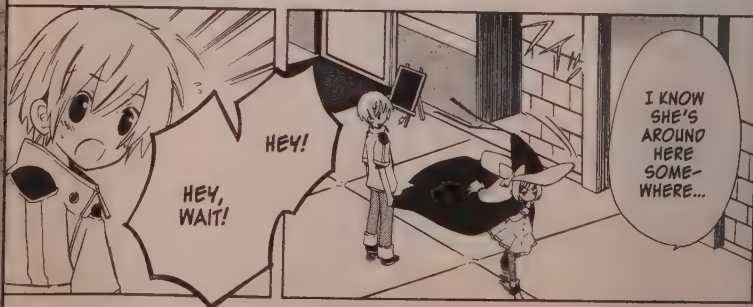
WEIRD...

UH!

UMM...!

ハッ





SUCH PRETTY EYES...

STOP STARING, YOU RUDE LITTLE BOY!

SUCH PRETTY EYES...

STOP STARING, YOU RUDE LITTLE BOY!

A close-up of a character's face, showing wide eyes and a speech bubble. The speech bubble contains the text: "DO YOU MEAN ...". The character has spiky hair and is wearing a headband.

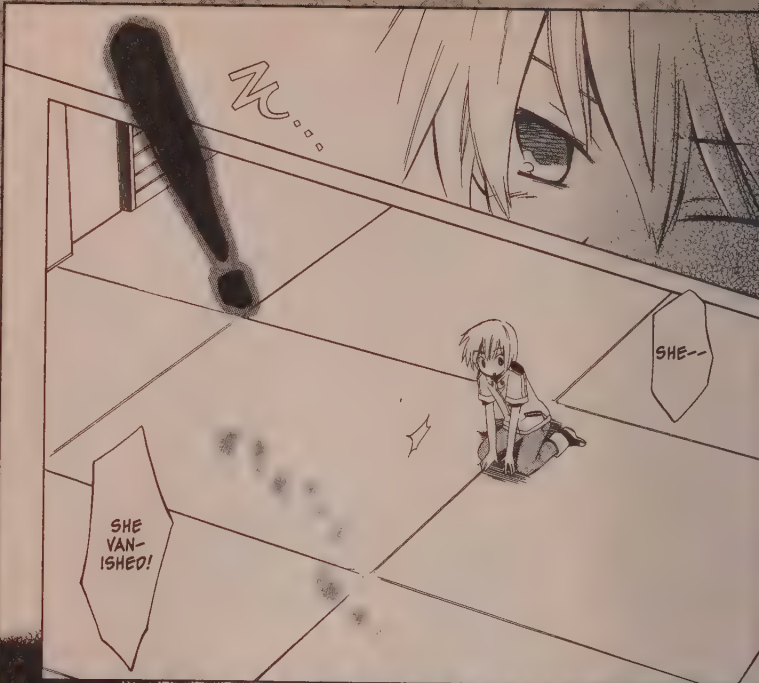
A close-up of a character's face, showing wide eyes and a speech bubble. The speech bubble contains the text: "DO YOU MEAN ...". The character has spiky hair and is wearing a headband.

SHEESH, PEOPLE FROM THIS STAR...

O-OH, SORRY.

SHEESH, PEOPLE FROM THIS STAR...

O-OH, SORRY.



Σ...

SHE--

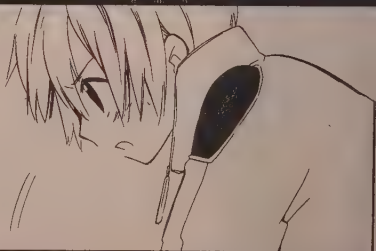
SHE
VAN-
ISHED!

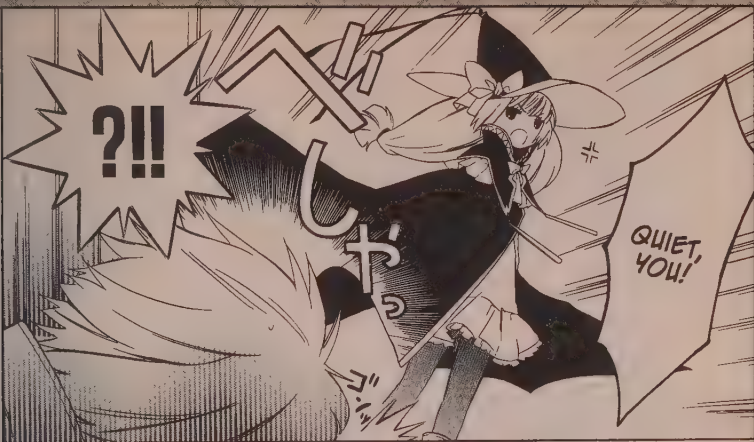
THEY DO
EXIST! MY DAD
WASN'T A LIAR!

A PER-
SON FROM
ARTEMIS...

...
AROUND
HERE
SOME-
WHERE!

SHE'S
STILL
...





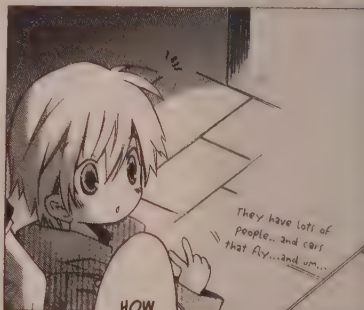
KAZUKI'S
SO
REALISTIC.

MAYBE
THEY HAVE
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT'S LIKE,
KAZUKI?



YEAH!

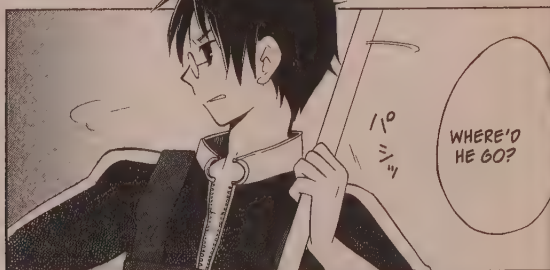


They have lots of
people... and cars
that fly...and um...

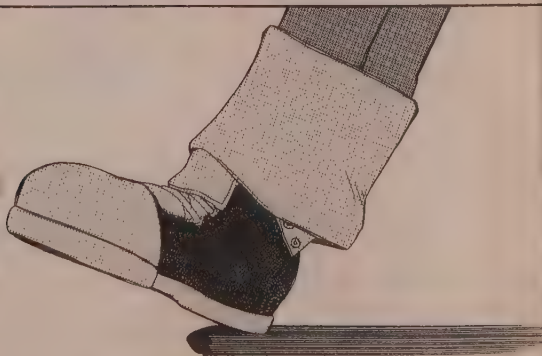
HOW
ABOUT...

...WE GO
THERE AND
SEE FOR
OURSELVES
SOME DAY?





WHAT
KIND OF
PLACE IS
ARTEMIS,
DAD?





OH, SO
YOU GUYS
KNOW?

YOU
MEAN
ABOUT
PEOPLE
FROM
ARTEMIS?

OF
COURSE
NOT!



IT
WOULDN'T
WORK.

WHA?

STOP
BEING
CREEPY!

BUT YOU
PEOPLE ARE
NO GOOD...



HUH?
WHAT?

SO
THOSE
STORIES
WERE
TRUE?

YOU'RE
RIGHT! SHE
HAS ODD
CLOTHES.

I'M...

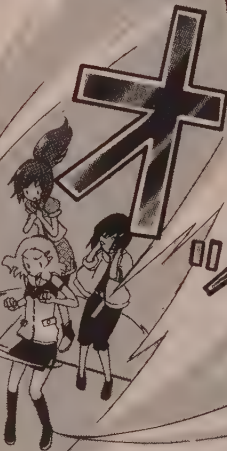
HEY, ISN'T
THIS THE
PERSON
THEY WERE
TALKING
ABOUT ON
THE NEWS?

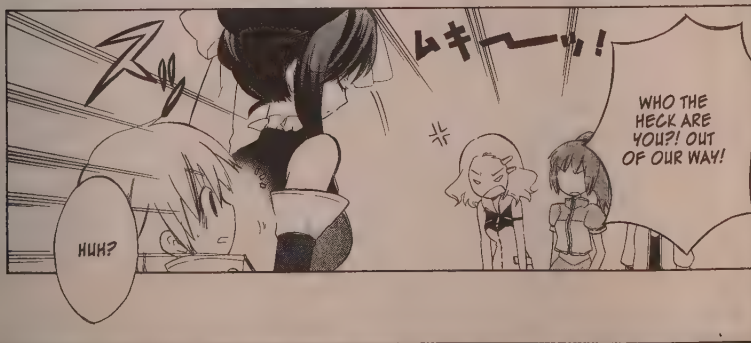
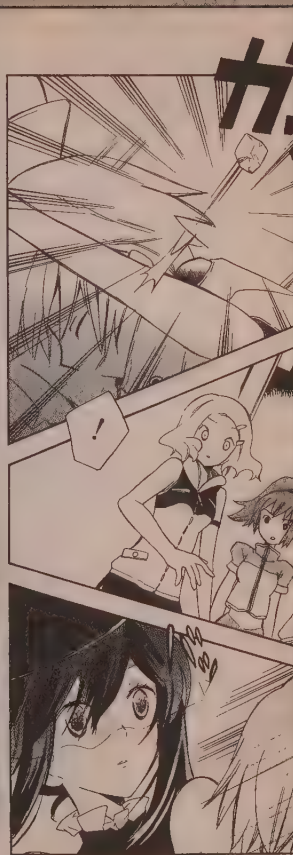
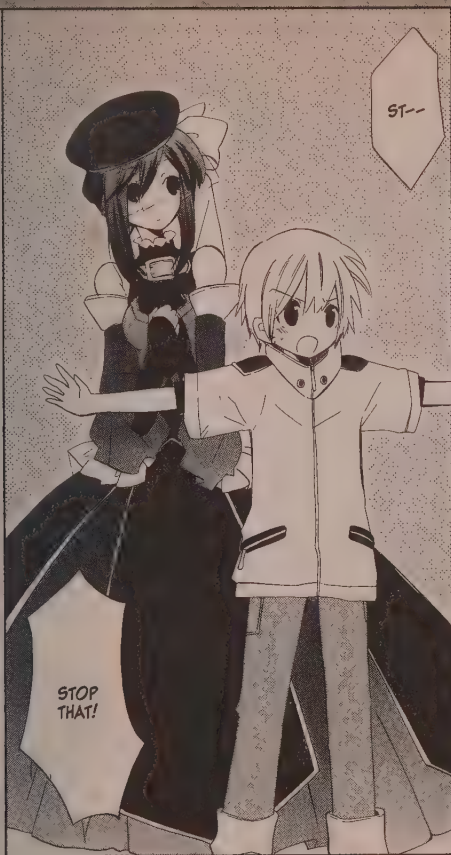
HEY,
WHO
ARE
YOU?!



YES, OUT
OF THE
WAY...

HUH?!





HUH?
UHM...



I
FINALLY
FOUND
ONE.

Loa

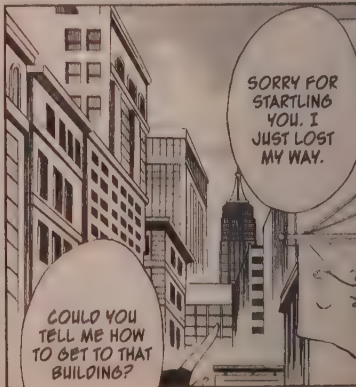


OH,
OKAY...



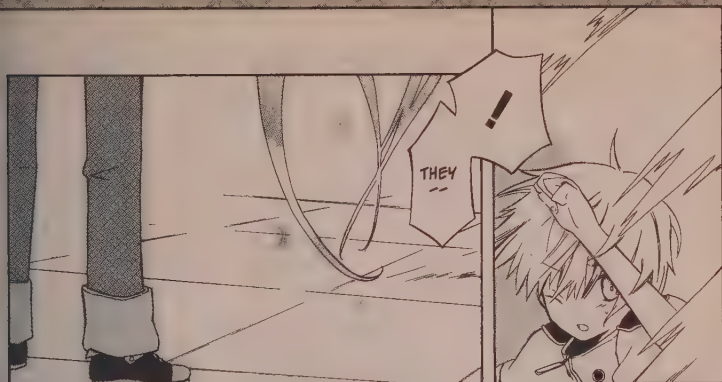
OH, SHE'S A
TOTALLY NICE
PERSON.

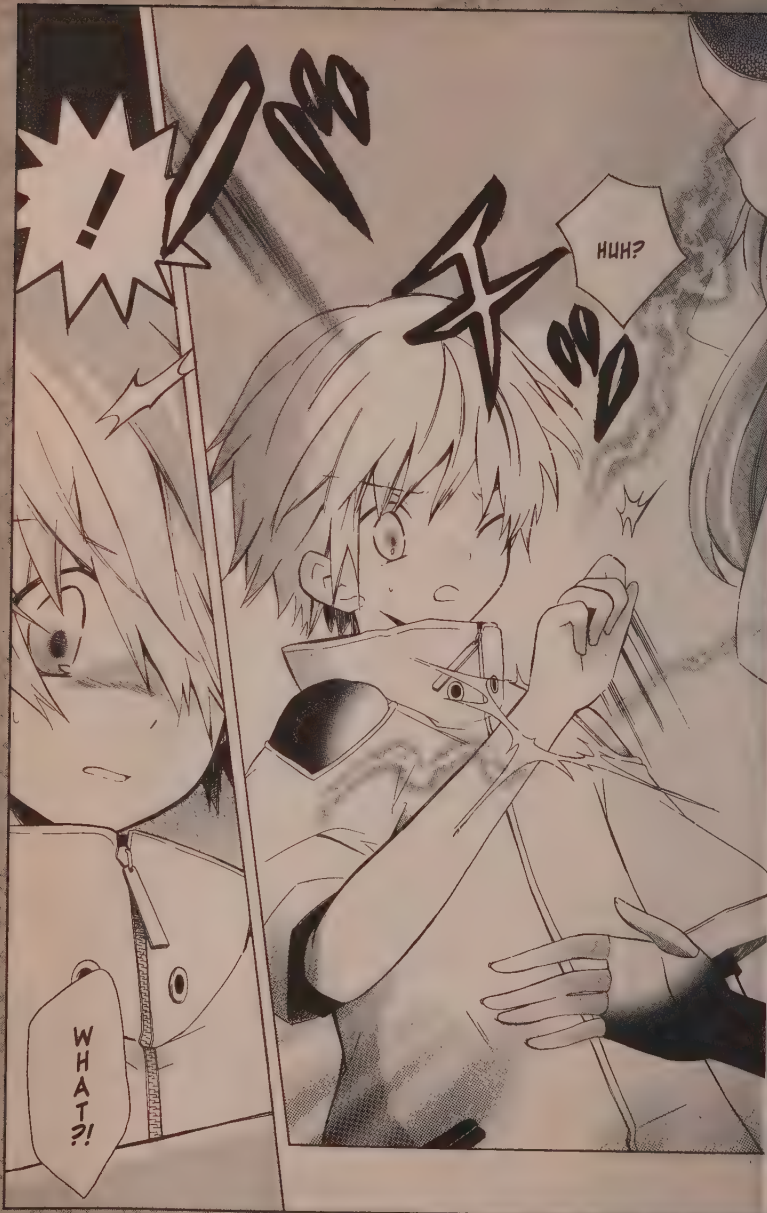
ホ



SORRY FOR
STARTLING
YOU. I
JUST LOST
MY WAY.

COULD YOU
TELL ME HOW
TO GET TO THAT
BUILDING?







YOU'RE
VERY
KIND.

THANK
YOU.

YOU
JUST
NEED
TO...

Z!!

BUT BEING
TOO KIND
CAN BE
BAD.

UH...

.....?
?

YOU'RE
EASY TO
TRICK.

13

HUH?

BUT
PLEASE.

HELP
ME...

THERE
YOU
ARE!

...SAVE
HER...

HUH?!
WHAT THE
HECK?!

PLEASE
UNDO IT!

IF YOU
DON'T
BREAK IT
SOON, THAT
CURSE WILL
KILL YOU...

IT'S A
DEATH
CURSE.

WHAT'S
THIS...?

THAT'S
NOT
SOME-
THING
TO BRAG
ABOUT!

JL
77

IMPOS-
SIBLE.

BECAUSE
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO BREAK IT!



ARTEMIS...
BUT I...

...
RRY...

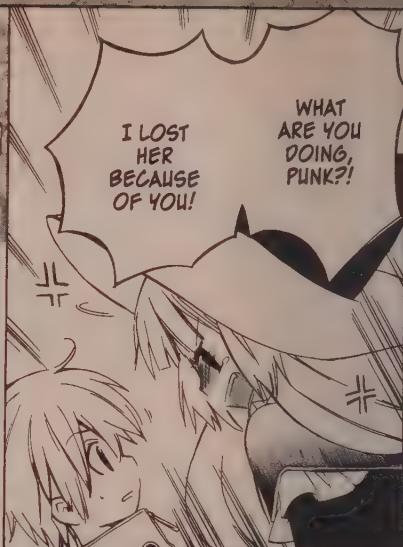
I'M
SORRY.

THERE'S
NOBODY
HERE WHO
CAN BREAK
THAT CURSE.

BUT THERE
IS A WITCH
ON ARTEMIS
WHO CAN...



HUH
...?



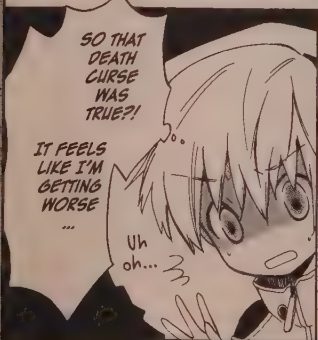
I LOST
HER
BECAUSE
OF YOU!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING,
PUNK?!



THAT
MARKING...
IS THAT A
CURSE?

Ugh...



SO THAT
DEATH
CURSE
WAS
TRUE?!

IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
GETTING
WORSE
...

Uh
oh...



IT'S
BECAUSE
OF THE
CURSE.

WHAT?!

I
FEEL
SICK...



I LIKE
DOINGS
THINGS
THAT HELP
OTHERS.

IT'S
WHAT
I WAS
MEANT
TO DO.

W-
WHY?

AND
IT'S
WHAT
YOU
WANT.

?!
...

HER
WORDS
AND HER
EXPRESSION
DON'T MATCH
AT ALL!

ニギ
Grin

SO?
WHAT'LL
IT BE?

I DON'T
REALLY
CARE IF YOU
BELIEVE ME
OR NOT...

WHAT...

...WILL IT
BE...?

AND SHE DIDN'T
SEEM LIKE A
BAD PERSON.

SHE SAID SHE
WANTED ME TO
HELP HER...

JUST
HELP
ME!

I NEED
TO GET TO
ARTEMIS
FAST!

AHHH!!

I WONDER
WHY SHE
CAME ALL
THE WAY
TO EARTH
FOR THIS...

SHE'S A
WANTED
CRIMINAL.

HUH?

I
WOULDN'T
MIND
TAKING
YOU.

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHERE IT IS
OR HOW TO
GET THERE.

IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN JUST
HOP ON A
SPACESHIP...

YOU WANT
TO GO TO
ARTEMIS?

UM, DO YOU
KNOW HOW I
COULD GET TO
ARTEMIS...?

HELP
YOU?

LOL

Right **Stu?**.com asks...

"What kind of OTAKU are you?"

W13729

SHOUJO Otaku

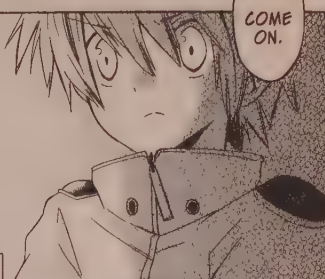
Likes: Friendship & romance. Journeys to far-off lands. Adventures in familiar settings. The drama (& comedy) of it all!



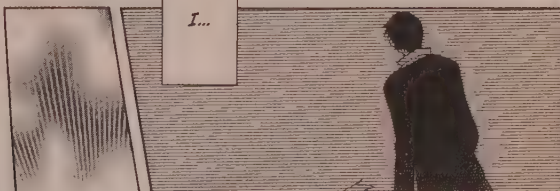
More Shoujo Stu? just One Click



Find it! Use the yellow search button at otaku.rightstuf.com



COME
ON.



I...



I...

...WANT
TO GO TO
ARTEMIS!

Love Cats? Love Ramen?

Then,

Kenji Sonishi's

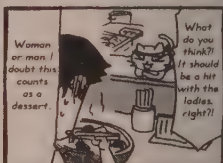
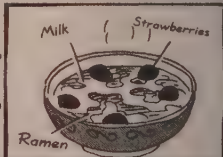
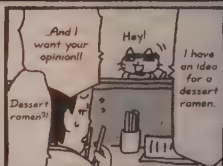
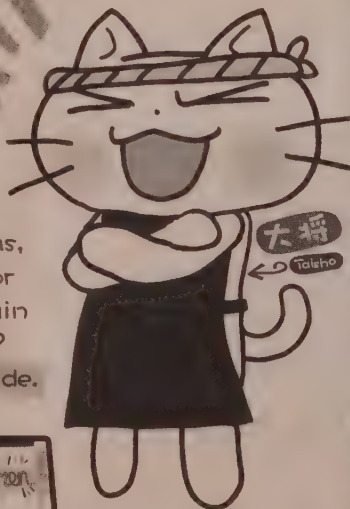
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cute, or
just plain
weird?
You decide.



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HIS ONE?



OR... BOTH?



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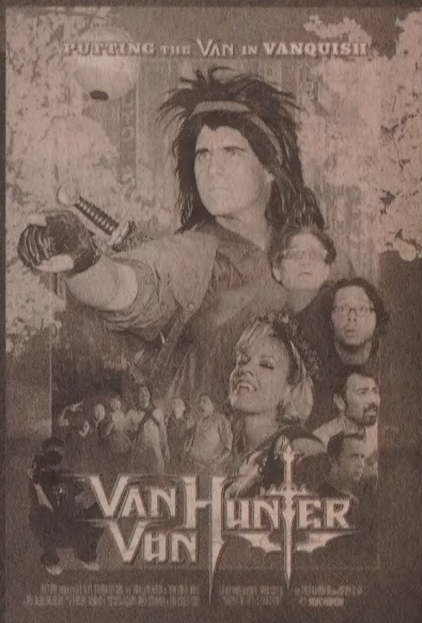
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STATION

STOP!

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DISCARD

4 **Alice** IN THE COUNTRY OF **Hearts**

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.....
TER ACE SHOWS ALICE HOW CHEAPLY LIFE IS TREATED IN WONDERLAND,
ELINGS OF SADNESS AND GLOOM LINGER OVER HER. TO CHEER HER UP, BO
AKES ALICE TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK, BUT WHEN SHE COMES HOME, JULIUS
SKS HER IF SHE WANTS TO LEAVE THE CLOCK TOWER. WHERE WILL ALICE
CHOOSE TO LIVE? AND WHY IS ACE SUDDENLY ACTING SO STRANGE? AMID THE
MAYHEM, ALICE RECEIVES AN INVITATION TO A MYSTERIOUS BALL, AND EVEN
ENEMIES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND—WHAT DANGERS AWAIT ALICE AT THIS
STRANGE PARTY...?!



A